

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1	County	The only thing I ask. If general county employees must go another year without pay please share this burden with public safety too. Why should we be treated differently? We too work for the county, have families to feed and bills to pay.
2	County	1. I think the County should offer buy outs to employees within 5 years of retirement. Only in areas that a position would be cut. 2. We could have 1 furlough day a month.
3	County	When (not if) in the future the County Executive or Board of Supervisors require a mandatory furlough day... please realize the financial impact to a general county employee and their lack of pay for that day during a single pay period and change the way the "furlough" occurs by requiring all employees to take one or two hours per week over four or eight weeks to accomplish the same reduction in operating costs.
4	County	My County pay will decrease by a little over 3% for 2009. The average employee in the Wash. DC metro area had pay increases of 3.1% in 2009. Federal employees saw average pay increases of 4.2% in 2009. (stats according to The Human Resource Corporation of the National Capital Area, published in the Washington Business Journal - 09/11/09). This means that my personal pay declined 6% to 7% relative to the area where I live. When I inquired why the county was not doing a compensation study this year (at least the pay scales could keep up with the market) the answer I received was that most people were not getting pay increases so why do one. I believe that this lack of commitment to the Pay for Performance process on the county's part indicates that the PFP process was simply a way to manipulate pay scales, and do away with cost of living adjustments. The commitment to PFP that was so highly touted at its inception sure didn't last long in the face of the first economic downturn since it was begun. My suggestion for the upcoming budget hearings is to mandate that the Annual Compensation Study be done as required by the PFP requirements, and to reinstate a cost of living adjustment to county employees.
5	County	Parental Leave for county employees should be frozen until further notice.
6	County and Schools	1. County - employees should no longer take county vehicles home or on trips thus saving wear and tear on vehicles as well as county funded gas to operate. 2. Limited amount of vacations a year even if you have enough for more. 3. Limited amount of field trips after all kids are sent to school for education not exploration. 4. After school curriculum should be very limited - dances, football games, etc thus saving on bus transportation, wear and tear funds to keep schools open for the occasion; employee pay and gas to provide the transport or a small charge for the transport- use of public transportation in areas that it can be used (within a certain distance from schools).
7	County	Take preventative measures by prohibiting night staff from providing transportation during the day shift.
8	County	Libraries should charge community groups for use of the meeting rooms - the schools and parks do.

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9	County	Why does the Health Department have its own emergency preparedness section? Shouldn't that be part of the Office of Emergency Management for consolidation and savings? Seems like they do very similar tasks and should be combined because of extra administrative costs. Plus, HD tends to work on its own things without OEM and vice versa.
10	County	I just reviewed the proposed increase in benefit costs for County employees w/an increase of 3.4% for CareFirst and 18% for Cigna. It was noted that the extreme difference in cost is due to a higher enrollment in Cigna w/higher than average claims. I personally was forced to choose Cigna when the County eliminated Trigon as an option. I live in Frederick Co VA and when sick or dealing w/an emergency I didn't want to have a 30+ mile drive to deal with to participate in the CareFirst program. Many County employees faced the same choice and the only option for us was Cigna. Secondly and more importantly, I was here in the early 90's when the County dealt with the same economic downturn. We went two years w/no increases with 2 add'l years of 1% COLA along w/increases in our benefit costs much higher than the 1% COLA being offered. I had hoped and have said on every opportunity possible that if a cut in Merits is necessary, then please allow us to at least maintain our salary, not lower it by increasing our benefit costs. Please take in consideration for the FY2011 Budget that if you place another year w/no Merits, please do not approve an increase in our benefits. We need to maintain, not lose ground in our salaries. Thanks for your consideration, I know these are tough times and don't envy the position that you are in as our leaders.
11	County	to whom it may concern: I find it very frustrating that no meeting is being held in the Falls Church area for those many employees who work in Falls Church. Traveling to the other buildings is not possible due to increased work loads. Please consider adding one more session to give us access to these discussions.
12	County	I think we need to consider a 4 day 10 hour work schedule. We also have to take into consideration how the economy has affected employees too, I think if an employee has the opportunity to car pool or van pool that there supervisor should accommodate the work hours so they can join a car pool or van pool. I think something needs to be done to the supervisor who will accommodate some and not others.
13	County	The Employee Dialogue Evaluation did not have a box for grade. Doesn't this create the possibility of an echo chamber? Those higher grades who have a voice in the budget, will also have a voice in the budget dialogue? Are you looking for opinions of higher grade workers, or workers of all grades?
14	County	The Supervised Visitation & Exchange Program should be abolished. Exchanges at police stations are safe, and parents aren't going to change their ways of behavior because a court wants them to. It comes from within.

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15	County	How is it that the news says home purchases are up, but according to FFX County it's not. FFX Co. recent torn down a lot of trees and built million dollar homes that no one could buy and are still vacant. These homes are built right next door to families who has been in their homes for many years. No we, the taxpayer, are having to pay for those decisions. This is not an area for million dollar homes. (Hollywood). We are doing two people's work for one year, now you're asking us to do it again for another year. I don't think it's fair.
16	County	DMB should monitor limited term employment. Most (all?) of the positions are lower grade positions, and some (many?) of the workers aren't hired for temporary projects, or seasonal work. I've seen file room people, and front desk people who are limited term who have been at the same position for years. It's an abusive labor practice, and the County should be ashamed of itself.
17	County and Schools	Stop "going green" it has increased the cost of cleaning supplies, office supplies, etc.
18	County	Do we need two managers in each adult day care when we have a staff of 7 to 10 employees in each center? A few years ago the position of RT in ADHC was merged with the position of RT in Parks and Recreation. Management responsibilities were given to the ADHC RT in order to match the position description with the Parks and Recreation RTs. RTs in the small ADHC centers were then moved up to S23. It seems that it would be possible to have one RT for two centers and activity directors implementing the program. Some centers average 17 participants a day and they are 3 miles apart do we need a RT, a second manager in each one? A template of the activities calendar can be made and activities developed can be applied to each center as the participants are similar.
19	County	After going through last year's process and attending a meeting, I decided to do some research and learn more about the county so I could be more informed this year. I come from a PR background working for a major PR firm in DC. What's striking to me based on my background is that the cable channel 16 is separate from the public relations office. To me and most professionals in my field, that doesn't make sense. How can the video component of delivering news, information, public affairs -- the message -- be a separate entity not directly connected to PR? How can the channel 16 staff know what it is the public affairs people want and need beyond I'm assuming occasional meetings? In today's day and age of communications, video is crucial and to have PR separate from the main video department raises a red flag to me. The whole point of having channel 16 is to provide public information in video format. I propose eliminating the Department of Cable and Consumer Protection. I propose merging the cable department into the PR office. Then merge the consumer protection part with Human Rights and Equity Programs to create a new merged office that could be called Department of Consumer and Citizen Rights since those three offices seem to provide many of the same types of services. If the supervisors are serious about making wholesale structural changes to the budget and how the government is structured, here's one place to look based on professional feedback of today's PR and video world.
20	County	All current County employees living at least two counties away and at least 65-years old should be retired. There are enough real-estate-tax paying County residents qualified, looking and willing to work.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
21	Schools	1. Eliminate all senior social work and psychology positions. The administration is top heavy with senior clinicians, managers, and coordinators. They are not needed for school system operations. 2. Reduce 12 month contracts for educational specialists and other administrative personnel who do not have direct contact with students. They can perform their jobs with eleven month contracts. 3. Eliminate social work positions by attrition.
22	Schools	Close school buildings during the summer. Reduce school based technology specialist contracts. Have them go from 12 to 11 month contracts. Have principals evaluate school social workers and psychologists. This would eliminate the need for Gatehouse supervisors.
23	Schools	First, I must offer my heartfelt appreciation for your service to those of you who must conduct this very difficult process; thank you! Please consider that upper level administrative staff who are issued Blackberries, or other personal smart phone devices, be asked to make reimbursement to FCPS by payroll deduction for the cost of that equipment and service. Further, I propose that NO reimbursement be given to employees for their home cable or internet access expenses. I feel most strongly that the impact of any proposed cuts should be absorbed by administrative staff to the same painful degree that it has been a day to day burden for classroom teachers and students. While I certainly admit that it's a good thing that my job in an FCPS administrative support department is made more productive by the technology available to me, I expect that most employees who are issued smart phones by the county (and virtually all who are reimbursed for cable or internet costs) would promptly acquire the same services at their own expense. I know that I would. [This seems likely to be an eligible tax benefit for necessary job related professional expenses, if in fact it is impossible to do without.] I am referring here to the Schools' budget, but it may be that County government employees (other than first responders or emergency personnel) similarly are issued Blackberries and might also be asked to absorb those costs. My hope is that as public schools are asked to endure a second year of deep reductions in programs and instructional support, you would not allow one more job to be cut, or one class size or case load to further increase, until "essential" personal communication expenses are subjected to the close scrutiny of the chopping block. Thank you for taking my comments.
24	Schools	Fairfax County should no longer pay for IB and AP exams for high school students. In these very challenging budget times, I find it incomprehensible that Fairfax County taxpayers are compelled to subsidize the college education of so many students capable of paying. If a student chooses to enroll in an IB or AP class, they (not county taxpayers) should cover the cost of the exam!

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25	County and Schools	A few ideas: 1 - Libraries seem to spend a lot of money on moving books from one branch to another. I suggest a fee when a book that belongs in one library that is returned to a different library. Sometimes it is easy for me to take it to DM, but I am in TM so I just return it there. 2 - Also can make libraries a "bit less comfortable", they were super cold in the summer and too warm in the winter. 3- Make money in libraries by selling Starbucks (or other) coffee. Make it into a Barnes and Noble! 4 - Make money by having some folks pay for rental space in the library. Some of the orgs that use the space are edge cases. 5 - Please don't make the classrooms in schools any bigger. At Colvin Run, 5th grade has over 30 kids in each class, 1st and K are about 25. No assistants are there, it is a wonder that they learn anything!
26	County	I work two nights a week here at the Government Center. After my meetings end I walk through the conference rooms and turn off all the lights in all the rooms. Why are there not signs up and requests made (regularly) to meeting room users that when they finish a meeting they should turn off the lights.
27	County and Schools	In an economic tough time like now, citizens understand, expect, and prepare for a change in the services we have been receiving. I trust the Board members to do the reasonable necessary cut in the budget, generally across the board so no one particular subgroup's welfare is jeopardized, but limit trimming in those areas that help to maintain FFX County as an attractive candidate and competitive player in its present and future endeavors, namely: education supremacy, public safety, quality of life, beautiful environment, etc. And, the Board should try not to raise avenue solely on homeowner's real estate taxes, but expand the venues for taxation (so no one particular group feel penalized). I am sure we are willing to pay a little more sales tax, or those Toxic taxes (cigarette, alcohols) etc. In another word, do not be short-sighted about penny-pinching only, but keep an eye on the damage to FFX County's future as you pinch.
28	County	To reduce 35 million and future payments to retirement fund: 1. As of Jan. 1, 2010, all entrants into the regular retirement system will be under Plan A. Plan B will exist only for those currently enrolled. 2. As of Jan. 1, 2010, all entrants into the retirement system will be allowed to receive retirement payments only for the time, calculated at retirement, equal to their length of service calculated time. Retire at 55 with 25 years of service, means you get 25 years of payments, no more. This will enable the precise calculation of the distributions from the fund and will enable the actuaries to better support the AAA bond rating for FXCO.
29	County	Based on the current economic crisis within the county structure, I would suggest re-organizing some of the departments such as DPWES where position responsibilities could be combined into one, for example. Work loads have slowed tremendously; yet staff are sitting at their desks with nothing to do. Perhaps moving staff to other departments with the same classification would save money. I do not want anyone to lose their job; it appears to me that middle management levels needs to be analyzed as to how best to utilize the skills and knowledge in order to be more cost-effective. Having too many levels is not cost-effective, in my opinion.

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30	County	In light of the increase stress on the youth in Fairfax County due to the economic situation, the public facilities, such as the library , should be made available to provide a place for them to work and learn. The hours were reduced, which does not help a student in the evening have the tools to complete their assignments. The hours should be changed back to their original times and the library should cut in other areas, such as the periodical collection, which does not get used as much as the other collections.
31	County and Schools	Now is the time to make some hard budget cuts and not to find ways to cover the projected deficit by taxing citizens again this year. My property taxes increased (as did other bills), while my pay remains frozen and now I'm struggling to pay bills. Understand the impact on the average citizen, before you take the easy way out and raise taxes or increase fees. The taxes for the average taxpayer must remain constant. We are in a recession and it is time to give citizens some real tax relief as other jurisdictions did last year. The county can no longer afford to have a bloated bureaucracy or "nice to have" services that were a result of the "boom" times. These are "bust" times and the county shouldn't be providing unnecessary or inequitable services like subsidizing daycare or providing full-day kindergarten for a select few. It's time to provide only essential services for ALL county residents.
32	County	Close the libraries on Sundays. People can live without doctor's offices and banks open on Sundays, they can cope with the library being closed one day a week.
33	County	<p>During the Fall 2008 Lines of Business Process for the FY 2010 Budget, Supervisor McKay posed a question relating to the feasibility of the County implementing vehicle tax exemptions for 100 percent disabled veterans (see link:</p> <p><a href="http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2010/budget_questions/bos/responsepackage3/dta_disabled_tax_exempt.pdf">http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2010/budget_questions/bos/responsepackage3/dta_disabled_tax_exempt.pdf</a>).</p> <p>As a Fairfax County resident and 100 percent disabled veteran, I am requesting for the Board of Supervisors to adopt a separate and lower tax rate for one vehicle per disabled veteran as defined in Va. Code, Section 58.1-3506(A)(19), as part of the FY 2011 Budget.</p>
34	County	Eliminate take-home vehicles for public safety personnel.
35	County and Schools	I have plenty of ideas on how to improve school budgets. However, I am unsure as to where any revenue will actually go. So, I am reluctant to give advice and hope that the revenue ends up at its proper destination (ex. government employees and other citizens).
36	County	I think the car sticker should be at least \$50 to encourage people to take public transit and discourage multi-car ownership.
37	County	Do not further cut the Library budget, and if at all possible, increase it. Cuts in FY 2010 have already reduced the level of Library services and book offerings to unacceptable levels. We now slam our libraries' doors shut so early that the average working person/commuter and teenager can barely gain access to them. An interim suggestion: have every remaining employee routinely offer info on the Friends of the Library group instead of begging for \$1 to look up a card number.

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38	County	Supervisors raised the tax rate for real estate taxes to \$1.04 this year. If you are still having problems meeting the budget, you didn't raise taxes enough. I know, politically, it is a hard decision to make but you have to do what you have to do. That is your job. Listen to the employee suggestions in the budget sessions, cut what makes sense and adjust the tax rate to meet the budget. I pay taxes in the County and, while no one likes more taxes, in order to provide services you have to ask for more money. The rate was lowered years ago and nobody complained; they can accept a raise in taxes.
39	Schools	I recently attended a "Back to School" night at a local high school. While waiting in the hallway, I looked at the pictures identified as "administrative staff": principal, associate principal, six sub-school principals, assistant principal for administrative services, director of student activities, two asst. directors of student activities, media coordinator, two guidance directors, security specialist, two technology coordinators, assessment coach, and after school specialist. What do all these people do?!? FCPS cut these EDUCRATS!! Use the savings to cut my taxes or put the money where it will benefit kids!!
40	Schools	Get rid of the school lunch program. Though the food quality is better than in the past, it is still highly processed food and is still not really good for the kids. My niece's High School in Maryland eliminated the cafeteria lunches and students brought their own. They also eliminated the multiple lunch periods and the students were allowed to eat anywhere in the building, thus they got a longer lunch break. Right now, in MS & HS, the kids gobble down junk b/c they don't have enough time. Thirty minutes to get and eat your lunch is just too short.
41	County	Please preserve the library budgets- they have been cut too far already!!
42	County	Quit putting the burden of your budget on the shoulders of your workforce. It's a shame that your employees are bearing the brunt of your problems.
43	County	You still have agency heads that have falsified justifications for take home vehicles. Unmarked vehicles area being falsely justified so that certain people can keep a vehicle at home without their HOA issuing a violation for having commercial vehicles. County vehicles are being taken home as an un-documented benefit for the elite. Justifications are falsified and there is no history or reason for any out of County emergency call back.
44	County	Employees living out of Fairfax County and eligible to retire should be strongly encouraged to retire. Support county residents and help the environment by reducing emissions from daily commutes.
45	Schools	I am an employee for Fairfax County. I would like to see the employees get their pay raises in 2011. I personally, a single mother of three, have been directly impacted by not receiving my raise for the current year. Maybe the county should think about shorting contracts of those employees who are on 12 month contracts such as myself.
46	Schools	Please continue to look at administrative fluff before cutting teaching positions. The teachers are in the classrooms making a difference for kids. There is still quite an increase in the number of curriculum office positions, and administrative office positions that should be looked at first before classroom teachers. All the administrative positions from HR to office of staff development are quite large however in budget cuts it is always teachers and programs for children that are cut first.

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47	Schools	Please keep the language programs and the flexible (pull-out) groups for the children. Language study is instrumental at the elementary age and the pull-out groups for the higher achieving children are necessary. We don't want to short-change the smart kids or those who study harder/longer because of the budget.
48	Schools	I wish to voice my support for the Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) program. This is an excellent program that should NOT be eliminated by budget cuts. In addition to facilitating retention of the language, research shows that early language learning enhances basic skills in language arts, reading, and math and also improves test scores, cognitive development, memory, and cultural understanding. FLES is a program that reaches all students regardless of race, native language, income level, or academic ability, whether college bound or not. The cost for FLES is a small percentage (1%) of the overall budget and it has one of the most cost effective academic program staffing ratios - 1 FLES teacher can teach 450 students. I urge you to do all you can to retain this important program.
49	Schools	How many foreign students attend the county public school without any payment because their parent(s) are taking advantage of loop hole that they could attend shoddy college-level schools in Fairfax County to get free educations? This is outrageous! I don't want my hard-earn tax dollars to be used for these foreign kids' free education. Start to charge them the actual cost of education. Can you confirm this email with number of foreign students in Fairfax County public schools?
50	County	Please stop increasing the real estate tax rate! Many of us have lost our jobs. Even so, if our home is in a stable zip code, our real estate tax bill is soaring. We are forced to consider leaving Fairfax County because of the high cost of housing, including the growing tax burden. Fairfax County's spending has outpaced both inflation and population growth for this past decade - now is the time for the County to tighten its belt and find the spending cuts, just like County residents must make the difficult cuts in their own budgets.
51	County and Schools	1. Look at savings from dropping unfunded state and federal requirements. 2. Look at all non-school, non-safety savings first. 3. Look at savings in school's testing programs.
52	Schools	I read about possible school closures for FY2011. If that is the case, please consider closing Coates Elem in Herndon. McNair and Coates are currently both under-enrolled at about half capacity. I believe this would make logical sense. Also, the GT center which is now at McNair should move to Floris so that McNair is not over-crowded and a GT center can stay in Cluster 8. Thank you for your consideration. ~~ a concerned FCPS parent of three children.
53	Schools	In Fcps elementary schools we have SBTS or school based technology specialist that are 12 month employees that do not directly work with students. In such a budget crunch time how can we afford to have a 12 month employee in schools that do not help to improve test scores, lower class size or work directly with students?



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54	County and Schools	1. EDA: Jobs and people will come here without the EDA. The Wash Post reported: the Fed Government would hire 270,000 people. BRAT is coming. We do not need to use tax money for jobs to justify building offices in Tysons. If business wants EDA, let business pay for it. 2. Schools: in March, there were articles on the schools: in the Ffx County Times by Pat Herrity and a letter in the Wash Post. They questioned the need for hundreds of lesson-plan developers, the number of assistant superintendents, etc, while class sizes increase. Also departments in the FCPS which are redundant with the County's. These are worth a close look by the County. 3. Restaurants: Arlington County has a 4% meals tax in addition to the Virginia 5% sales tax. The tax was established in 1991. The BOS had a referendum in the County; the voters passed the tax. We should consider the same in lieu of some real estate tax.
55	Schools	Lots of safety and security positions in the schools. The full time uniform police is probably enough.
56	County and Schools	I'm the only male teacher at my school. I teach 5th grade. I am married with a child and own a townhouse which has a mortgage of \$2200 a month. We need less technology and more pay for teachers. I may have to leave this county because being the breadwinner of my family I can't support them because I'm not getting a pay increase. Everything is going up except our pay. Teachers are the most important in education. Common Sense.
57	County	I really believe it is critical that you not cut the library funding any further. The people hit hardest by the economic downturn rely most on the library for resources to deal with job loss and other economic issues. Please find other areas to look for cuts if they are needed.
58	County	I want to express my deep concern over the cuts proposed for our county libraries. I understand we need to make cuts somewhere, but the libraries are a very small part of the budget, have already taken significant cuts, and are a very important community service. And so I urge you not to cut library funding. While I certainly support a strong school system (which I understand is well over half our budget), the library system is equally important and should be seen as a part of the educational services the county provides -- only the libraries serve ALL of the county residents, regardless of age, and regardless of whether there are any children in the household. Certainly we childless households support having our tax dollars spent for good schools, but we want more money dedicated to broader educational support, like the library system, that serves both households with children and households without children. At a time like this, when people do not have the money for entertainment, education, socialization (through their discussion programs), or for job hunting!, it is essential that MORE money, NOT LESS, go to services like our libraries. Please keep in mind that the population served by services like the library are your permanent voter base, we are not transient residents, and we ask that you give our concerns substantial consideration.

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59	County	I suggest re-instating the old hours for the Fairfax Libraries. I work until 7:00 each night and it is almost impossible for me to get to the library in time before closing at 8:00 p.m. I would like more than 15 minutes before closing to enjoy the use of the library. If the old hours cannot be re-instated, at least shift them to 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Children and working people cannot use the library during the early hours of the day. It only makes sense to provide later hours.
60	County	Close libraries on Sundays.
61	County	Please do not cut the libraries any further. It has been rumored that in addition to the 3% cut already asked for in the FY11 budget, an additional 15% cut is being asked for by the county executive. This additional 15% cut is only being asked from Libraries and Parks, two of the smallest parts of the county's budget. Additionally, the library system was the hardest hit in FY10 with a 15% cut plus another 3% after the start of the FY. The FY11 cuts being asked for (both the 3% and 15%) will destroy the library system. Massive loss of staff in the range of 50-100 employees will mean drastically reduced hours of service as well as materials and programming currently offered. These are cuts that simply cannot be made if we are to have any kind of library system in Fairfax County. In these hard economic times, the library offers free access to all county residents. Free Internet access for homework help or job hunting, free books to read for furthering ones education or for relaxation, and programs
62	Schools	I understand that budget cuts hurt and are necessary. What I don't understand is that Fairfax county is one of the best and largest school counties with dedicated teachers who make the schools what they are, and because of the cuts some of these teachers are struggling to live. My question is how do we sustain good and dedicated teachers if we can not pay them enough to keep up with the high cost of living in northern VA? I fear that if we have another year of pay freeze, teachers do not receive their next step or even worse we have lay offs then we are going to start losing some of our teachers to neighboring counties. How do we explain that to our children? In order to sustain the teachers who are teaching our children we need to make sure that we are paying these teachers so that they have enough to support their own children. Often we forget the little people on the bottom as we accommodate the people on top. PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE TEACHERS! PLEASE TAKE CARE OF OUR TEACHERS!
63	County	Please don't cut the library budget any more than you have already slashed it. I know that huge staff and materials cuts have already been made. Enough! Our students need access to libraries. How can you think you have a "world-class" school system without an excellent library system to support it? Plus libraries are available to people from every age range, not just kids in schools.
64	Schools	Regarding Schools - Are "buy-outs" being considered for older staffers? Wouldn't this help with the budget shortfall in that you could replace these higher-earning teachers with lower-earning new teachers? I also support the proposal of the walking bus routes for a number of reasons -- there are far too many buses in Fairfax. This could also help with the budget as well by reducing staff, maintenance, fuel, etc., as getting our kids exercise and promoting a sense of community.

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65	County and Schools	How can we afford to keep programs other jurisdictions don't have, yet we can't afford to compensate our employees? Make programmatic decisions about what we can and can't afford to do (and are willing to pay for), rather than squeezing the entire County workforce. Also, if FCPS can afford to keep boutique programs like FLES and paying for AP and IB exams (which by the way are far cheaper for parents than college tuition), then FCPS can afford to take a cut in their transfer.
66	County	I think the County could save a lot of money if all agencies would stop rehiring employees that have completed the drop program. Most of the retired employee are receiving the same or almost the same amount of pay when they was full time employees.
67	County and Schools	Now is the time for county employees to give back to it's government, I suggest that employee's across this county rededicate themselves by volunteering to do tasks that are contracted out to various vendors. if employee's really want to save positions possibly their own, we should give of ourselves. Why can't an employee clean restrooms, cut grass, guard buildings or any tasks that does not require a lot of training. time can be rerouted and other individuals can be rotated to cover an employee's absence while they are working in the needed area. Suspend Compensatory time for volunteer time, given this climate the county needs all hands on deck. Purchasing can write contracts that cover the county for indemnification, now is the time for an innovative approach. I believe that given the facts of one losing their position, I for one would rather provide the extra service to this government than to be without a means to provide for my family.
68	County and Schools	Please, please don't remove or reduce county contribution to health insurance. It's so important to many, many of us.
69	County	Reinstate the FMD cut backs on air conditioning. The County may be losing the dollar savings in productivity due to uncomfortable employees. Please reevaluate and report back on analysis of actual energy savings. Double down on thermostat changes in winter if necessary, when employees have the option of putting on a sweater versus being too hot.
70	County	What would be the budget savings if the current employee drop program were eliminated or suspended for the duration of the budget crisis?
71	County	Curious why Channel 16 is its own entity and not part of Public Affairs. It's messaging, just through video, so why isn't the staff rolled into OPA so its PIOs can write/approve scripts to ensure consistent messages. A director of public affairs without direct authority over a TV station/video production is like an army general without tanks -- tools that are unavailable to assign and allocate as needed given county priorities and Board needs. County PIOs are already writing messages for print, web and other venues, but not really for video purposes, which is simply strange and seems to be a holdover from another era of doing business.
72	County	Decrease number of supervisory positions! No need for so much middle management either! In mental health-use the social workers to help clients and not to manage layers and layers of middle managers. Money would be saved and the clients would benefit.
73	County	Reinstate the vehicle tax! \$25-\$45 a year per vehicle is not too much to pay to generate revenue for the county. I live in Fairfax County, I work for Fairfax County and I would like to see the yearly raises for county employees begin again. Living here is expensive and I need some sort of

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		compensation to continue to live here.
74	County	1. Adjust retirement calculations for employees who retire during the fiscal years when compensation was not increased as they will not have the opportunity to earn additional income later to offset lower amounts of their base pay. 2. Consider previous year reductions so that agencies whose budgets were reduced more than other agencies are not asked to take additional reductions.
75	County	I do not see how we can address the 2011 budget without furlough days. As an employee I suggest that the County implement some more furlough days to help the budget crisis. Many local jurisdictions are doing this. Also if employees were willing to take additional voluntary furlough days that could be an option as well to help the budget crisis. As an employee I would personally offer to take extra furlough days.
76	County	Since employees are not getting pay raises, it seems appropriate to cut back the promotional rates (i.e. 5%, 10% and 15%).
77	County	I feel that it's unfortunate that the BOS continually feels the need to balance the budget by lowering and now canceling our PFP's. When PFP's were thrust upon the employees it was with the promise that it would not be used to balance the budget. This proved to be a lie as first the scale was reduced from a 7% max to a 6% max. Then the BOS decided to make the scale harder so it was impossible to achieve the top score. Then teachers, fire, and police still received their raises while the rank and file did not. How would the BOS feel if 2/3 got raises and 1/3 did not? Moral is at an all time low and many departments have ever increasing work loads, which means more work less pay. Employees will not stand for another year without PFP's
78	County	Ideas: *Reward agencies / units who promote teleworking and or carpooling *Establish a "foods tax" for all pre-made food items. Every other city / county in the area has this. There is no reason why only homeowners in FFX Co should flip the tax bill. Many, many people who work in the county do not live in the county or the state, yet they use the roads, create traffic and gobble up other resources without paying for any of it. *Offer "floating furlough" days. I would be happy to voluntarily take 2 unpaid days off a year if I were not consequenced for it, i.e. retirement and pay calculated differently for the days off. Or make a mandatory furlough day that is floating, that way 24/7 facilities who were exempt from the furlough or had to pay OT to those who worked can float their staff's days throughout the year. *Turn the AC down in the Courthouse by 2 degrees. Have HV systems programmed to lower and raise in the middle of the night. Have more computers, printers, etc. turn off in the middle of the night and not reboot in the AM until someone physically turns them off.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		<p>I had to unplug my work station for it to stay off while I was on vacation and out of the office for 10 days. *Encourage agencies to purchase recycled paper, use their printers less, limit use of color printers, etc. Nice clean paper should only be an option when documents are necessary for court or some type of presentation. *Encourage workers to seek cross training to make them more marketable in case there are RIF's or less opportunity in their own agencies. *Look at management at the top ~ we are a top heavy system *Something needs to be done about the illegal population in the county. Although it may be contrary to the county's mission, if one were to look at the families in need of the most services, many are illegal. They are a drain on the school system, DFS and the court system. If on any given day one were to look at the population in jail and detention, there are many people in there who are illegal and have committed crimes. This by far has been one of the biggest problems facing our county. Many kids come to the country/county by means of a relative or family friend without their parents and they end up creating a drain on the various systems without the benefit of their parents paying any taxes in the county or the country. On occasion these families who take on these kids abandon them or do not provide any care for them once they hit what in their culture is their legal age of adulthood, i.e. 16; thus DFS is now having to take on a parenting role for the child, who will likely be getting special education services from school. *Advocate for legislature to permit 17 year old children to drop out of school. We are spending an enormous amount of money trying to keep kids in school who do not want to be there. If we put these energies into the kids who care about education, we would be doing a service to the school system and the community. Drop out age was once 16 and this county was not a worse place to live; it was actually better. *Advocate for legislature that would cease mandated special education services up to the age of 23. Again, school budgets are being gobbled up by a minority and they end up creating a drain on the various systems without the benefit of their parents paying any taxes in the county or the country. On occasion these families who take on these kids abandon them or do not provide any care for them once they hit what in their culture is their legal age of adulthood, i.e. 16; thus DFS is now having to take on a parenting role for the child, who will likely be getting special education services from school. *Advocate for legislature to permit 17 year old children to drop out of school. We are spending an enormous amount of money trying to keep kids in school who do not want to be there. If we put these energies into the kids who care about education, we would be doing a service to the school system and the community. Drop out age was once 16 and this county was not a worse place to live; it was actually better. *Advocate for legislature that would cease mandated special education services up to the age of 23. Again, school budgets are being gobbled up by a minority of students who are eligible for special education services but not interested in gaining an education.</p> <p>If the mandated cut off age was 20, the school system could refuse services for the kids who have not taken their education seriously or who have been disruptive in the schools. However the school could continue to provide services for those young adults who truly want it. I hope these suggestions are helpful.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
79	County	We are so short of staff at my agency (library) that people feel compelled to come in to work even when they are sick because it would be impossibly hard on co-workers. We are told not to dare miss a Sunday now that we have a 7 day required availability. It is impossible, for those of us who want another job to supplement our reduced income, to find one because we have to be available 7 days a week under the new schedule, sometimes working all 7 days. We are working extremely hard, but are criticized and our evaluation lowered if we "complain" despite all our hard work. We feel a real lack of appreciation for all that we are doing.
80	County	The library system has already suffered major cuts while "business" has increased, along with schedule requirements (must be available to work 7 days a week--Sundays too now). This is a serious problem for staff and for the library. Some people feel they have to come to work sick, out of dedication. Since the schools make up more than half the budget, why not have class size increase by 1 and the county problem should be on the way to being solved. This is what Arlington has proposed to do. The library has been cut enough.
81	County	Could we please have more of these sessions in the evening and in varied parts of the county when and where more employees could attend? Most of us can not attend during the working day.
82	County	Cutting the personnel budget in the library seems inconceivable. Especially for those who have already lost positions. (Some of us had more than one position). Now I work 20 hours spread throughout the week. Not even with the promise of a raise this year. It is very difficult to find another part time job to complement this schedule. Very difficult to make ends meet. We live in an apartment and I've heard nothing about rent control in this area. I guess we will have to put some money we don't have into shelters for the homeless.
83	County	The library has a plan for the 3% cut, which is bad enough, but another 15% would be devastating--making it 33% over 2 years. We are busier than ever and could not survive with what is a 33% cut. We would probably have to end delivery and holds and make everyone drive all over the county to self-check out all their materials at the owning branch. Many good experienced employees would be gone and when the library needs them they probably would not be available. Other agencies--such as the schools have to have their fair share of the cuts. Do the people of Fairfax not value their libraries? I wonder.
84	County	Consolidate programs! 1. There shouldn't be an Office for Women, unless there are plans to form an Office for Men. If kept, consolidate into the Human Rights / Equity Programs agency. 2. Move all PIO positions from individual departments into the Office of Public Affairs. This would better achieve the county's goal of consistent messaging and would greatly improve oversight. I'm sure Public Affairs could ultimately find reductions in staffing of PIOs countywide through this consolidation and better distribution of work assignments (specifically, OPA PIOs work with *multiple* agencies). 3. Move cable production / Channel 16 into the Office of Public Affairs. It makes no sense for this one communication channel to be outside the county's communication office. See suggestion #2 above for additional, applicable reasoning.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
85		Send home only 1 packet of beginning of schools and other school activity information per family. Close schools 1/2 days Mondays and start a program that makes money to fuel the budget. Approach companies to donate products.
86		Close schools in the cluster 8, Coats Elementary and McNair can be consolidated and GT program could be moved to Floris.
87	County	Stop building buildings, there is no need for a 50 million dollar building in south county
88	County	I work for the library system how about making the delivery in 3 days instead of 5 days a week. I know it will be a lot for the staff and the public won't be able to get their holds on time but I think they need to see the situation is very serious. Another suggestion is to charge them for their holds. They can be entitled to put up to 5 books on holds after that they can be charge like a dollar per book? We have some customers that they put several books on hold and sometimes they just returned without even checking then out. Holds take time to process, paper, ink and space. Believe me in the past I had customers with 10 to 15 holds!!!
89	Schools	Remove IB. Charge users for 100% of AP and IB tests. Charge activity fees and increase parking fee. Stick TJ on 7 periods. All middle schools have GT. No GT bussing. Remove non HS credit foreign language, magnet, and other program funding. Dale put in demographic staffing ratios so these programs are double dipping. No South County middle school. County wide boundary changes and no new capacity. Renovate NOT rebuild schools. All schools on standard contract length. Summer school in select locations - teacher stipends. Remove full day kindergarten everywhere but the VA K-3 reduced ratio schools.
90	Schools	Please consider transportation as a way to save money. SLEEP has put together plans that show significant savings.
91	Schools	I was wondering if it is worth considering evaluating the Gifted and Talented program cost and benefits. I believe that there would be a significant benefit to more school kids if the County provided this GT to all the kids and let the parents choose to opt out and remain in regular curriculum if their kids prefer so. I think the GT selection process done at 2nd grade kind of adds stress to kids and parents in many ways. So my suggestion use the increase the bar in the county at all schools to GT level and spend the money that is currently allocated to GT to provide additional support to kids who choose to be in regular classes so they could avail the additional benefit that they need.
92	Schools	Please look at the enormous expenses incurred by special education by duplicating resources so students with extreme disabilities may attend their neighborhood school.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
93	County	There are a significant number of Fairfax county employees who work part time at the county to get the benefits of the medical insurance. Majority of these employees also do other private business themselves or in some cases their spouses and are keeping this job because the county provides a good Medical Insurance option. The county should evaluate part-time who choose to have medical benefits by checking if they or their spouse have a private practice and determine higher premium for their Medical Insurance premium. If not it seems like the county's expense that the taxpayer pays is supporting private business people to take county job not because they have passion for this job but because they do not want to pay for higher medical premium at their private business even though they have higher income than the average tax payer who is paying this for them.
94	Schools	As a resident with a child in kindergarten and one who will enter kindergarten next year and another two years after that, I would like to ask the County to get rid of all day kindergarten to save money and save my kids. My daughter comes home and is exhausted after her full day. By the end of the week she is totally worn out. While she likes her teacher, she is only 5 and will be in school for years to come. Plus, it is difficult for small children to be in class for so long . . . The children in my daughter's class get green, yellow or red lights based on their conduct for a given day. I can assure you that I would have lots of reds if I were 5 and cooped up in school for a full day. There is no need to have full day kindergarten. I did just fine with a half day. I even made it to law school. Furthermore, it makes sense from a budget perspective as well and I am all for getting rid of the full day to avoid increases in property taxes. At the minimum parents should be able to have the option of choosing to enroll their child in a half-day kindergarten class--even if we, as parents, have to provide the transportation to another school. (parent of a Brookfield Elementary School student)
95	Schools	My son is a senior at W.T. Woodson High School. And during his back to school night, in his English class, I looked through one to the textbooks, Beowulf. Now Beowulf is one of those rites of school passage we either enjoy or endure, but that aside, what struck me was for every page of contemporary English, there was a corresponding page of Beowulf in the original Old English, which is not understandable. I understand the usefulness of pointing out to students studying this text that it was originally written in a language that is now quite different from our own. However this textbook, bought for and paid for with the tax dollars of Fairfax County residents, is more appropriate for a college student headed for a major or minor in old English literature, not high school students. Surely there is a book on Beowulf, printed only in contemporary English, which would have been cheaper for FCSP to purchase. So my point is while this is a micro-example, money could have/ can be saved by a closer look at textbooks and see if they are from a cost perspective, the best choice for the school system and its students.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
96	Schools	Close all schools/office for the month of July-saves salaries, HVAC, no annual leave needed. Provide summer school ONLY for those failing a subject -no frills. Go back to half day Kindergarten. No Foreign Language in Elem.Schools. Implement textbook rental fees (\$50 per yr.) as in olden days - w/reduced fees for students on free & reduced. Require student to attend school serving the area they LIVE in - NO special transportation except for handicapped students. No Exceptions. TJHSST students' parents provide transportation to & from. Suspend FECEP/HEAD START/Staff Development until budget improves. Increase fees for building use.
97	Schools	Teachers must be given some type of monetary increase this year whether it is a step increase or cost of living increase. As a teacher I'm not so much looking at the lack of an increase in terms of money I look at it as a show of a lack of respect. This year alone I have had more duties added and I know more are coming. Next year will be more. I've already spent more than \$200 out of pocket for my students. Being a special education teacher my classroom is on a behavior plan that requires rewards. I pay for those rewards. I also buy into a lot of my own computer programs that I use with the class. No money equals no respect, plain and simple. It is a major morale buster. Survey 1,000 teachers you'll get the same response.
98	Schools	Suspend/defer purchases of computers/lap top computers & mini labs for 1-2 years until budget outlook improves. Suspend any new adoptions thereby reducing textbook allocations for the Fy2011 school year in each school's budget. Suspend the blackberry service for FCPS employees at every level. All employees have personal cell phones, let them use those for 24/7 contact. Parents should pay for students to participate in afterschool sports/activities. FCPS fields could have company sponsors who advertise on their boards for a large fee. Stop the waste sending teachers/administrators to conferences out of state/area on school time. Subs are expensive/travel is expensive/registrations are expensive and it all takes away from students' continuity in education. Teacher workday should be used for all training/conferences.
99	Schools	I recommend the following actions to balance the budget - reduce bussing cost by combining routes and starting secondary schools later - collect car property tax from VA residents w/ Maryland license plates by checking east bound cars in morning and westbound evening - cut new programs added during "rich" budget years - implement rigorous cost-benefit analysis of all programs - review before and after school programs: county should not be subsidizing day care Raising taxes has to be the last resort after all discretionary spending is thoroughly reviewed. Cut all nice to have programs before raising taxes.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
100	County and Schools	I am in total agreement with the 'Board Matter' dated 09/14/09 and submitted by Anthony Griffin to Jack Dale regarding the 'Walking to School' initiative. I understand this will be discussed at a November 23 BOS meeting. The county needs to research other districts in the U.S. that have instituted this, and discover how their communities have benefited as well as the savings they have to their budgets. This is definitely a topic of interest for all Fairfax County residents, and if implemented, should have many effects of savings for the county budget, such as school bus maintenance and fuel costs, decrease in traffic on roads during morning rush hour, decrease in traffic around county schools, less employees (bus drivers), not to mention the added health benefits for students. Of course, students with special needs should continue to receive some form of transportation. Adopting some sort of 'walking to school' initiative for the County would really be a win-win for everyone, and is long overdue
101	Schools	Please end all subsidies to Jefferson High School and require that students pay full tuition just like the private school it is trying to be. Scholarships can be made available to the very few non-Asian minority students that are accepted. This so called magnet school serves only a limited number of elite families and draws away the best students from their home schools. With the declining attendance at private schools due to the economy, there has never been a better time to get rid of this budget and brain drain on our school system.
102	Schools	Too many teachers are on extended contracts and then on top of that they are given what is called an AT contract which is 12% additional pay of their annual salary. Virginia code says that a teacher on block schedule can teach 6 sections as long as the number of students is below 150. Let's follow the code and stop making exceptions to pay these teachers teaching 6 sections with less than 150 students' 12% additional salary and reduce all teachers to 194-day contracts. This can always be a temporary change. Stop summer school. Again, this can be a temporary change. If no summer school, this should encourage students to do what they need during the year. If not, they can find other ways to get the remediation they need and then perhaps an assessment option could be provided to indicate whether they have now met the requirements of the course they did not pass.
103	Schools	We cannot lose teachers or cut back on buses.
104	Schools	Do not "salami-slice" the budget (i.e. do not reduce all departments by the same percentage). Instead, prioritize and cut from the bottom until budget balance is reached. Better to entirely eliminate a low priority program (i.e. art) than to reduce core subjects (math, reading, sciences). Priority programs: High Priority: Math, Reading, Science, History, Government, Trade Skills; Medium Priority: Social Studies, Poli-Science, Languages; Low Priority: Arts, Music, Sports

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
105	County	As a resident of Fairfax County, I would like to see Fairfax County Public Library increase the amount of money given and restore funding in the 2011 budget. They have already had so many radical cuts to their budget and the only thing left to cut even more hours and additional staff which would be a detrimental loss to the county. The staff is already working to beyond maximum capacity to cover the cuts from previous years. The library is essential to Fairfax County for those who are looking for information and materials in these tough times. The county residents that need the library the most, especially need the library on the weekends for school work and because these are the best times for us to get to the library. Please consider that the library receives such a tiny part of the county budget yet is very essential to county residents. I hope this is taken into consideration in next year's budget.
106	Schools	Cut all programs that involve ESOL. Students will not learn English unless they are immersed. This would save a great deal of money. I also suggest cutting front office staff at many schools. Langston Hughes Middle School has way too many people in the front office, many of whom are singularly unhelpful and too busy with personal conversations to help when a parent takes the time to walk in personally. I also suggest cutting the number of counselors. Many of them are undertaking activities that should be the responsibility of parents.
107	Schools	I am concerned about any further increases in class size in the elementary school populations. As class size grows, students ability to learn and flourish and teaching opportunities diminish as teachers are forced to spend more time maintaining order. I am particularly concerned about any further increases in class size that will affect the GT center school population. The different staffing formulas for GT and general education populations already is resulting in small class sizes for general education and potentially huge class sizes for GT populations. At my daughter's school, where the boy to girl ratio in the GT center is as high as 3 to 1 in some grades, large class sizes can be particularly difficult. Also, while I understand the pressures on schools and school systems in a NCLB/SOL world, it seems patently unfair to penalize GT center students for being above grade in performance by using staffing formulas that place them in very large classes. How can this possibly best meet their needs? In gen
108	County and Schools	I moved to the County because of the schools. My neighbor moved to our neighborhood because of the school. The school system is more important than transportation issues, development issues, social welfare or having world class emergency responders to many of us. Please continue to support some of the best schools in the Country, and do not be afraid to fire poorly performing teachers at any time from any school.
109	Schools	First cut anything that doesn't contribute directly to student learning, e.g., bus schedules/drivers.
110	Don't Know	What are options? What are choices? What are the numbers? Is this another sham like the pre-determined boundary changes?

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
111	Schools	Please consider pulling IDS students out of base schools and moving them to centers. It is ridiculous to provide services at base schools with all the equipment and personnel they require when centers are probably better equipped to handle the students. Along with reducing teachers, PHA's, PHTA's the itinerants could condense their workloads by visiting fewer sites. Also, reconsider financing the IB program when the US AP system is just as effective.
112	Schools	Give residents -- especially parents of school kids -- the option to give cash to supplement the school funds and help close the budget gap. Public school is free, and private school is not. Why so binary? There are certainly some families with kids in public schools that could afford private school tuition, but choose to send their kids to the great local public schools. Some of those folks might be willing to chip in some of their own funds. And not just in a year when there's a budget gap. Each school could have a list of priorities they'd spend surplus funds on each year, and if parents wanted to contribute, the school could pay for some of those things. I say all of this b/c I myself would be willing to chip in some of my own money to Colvin Run ES where I have one son, and next year will have two. If it means smaller class sizes, etc., it'd be a great deal to pay a little extra, but still a lot less than private school cost.
113	County	The County library system intersects my life in many ways: I am a volunteer at a community branch, a volunteer for the Ready to Read Program, a volunteer tutor with the Literacy Council who uses library facilities to meet with my student, and a regular client. It distresses me to think that you would consider cutting the system an additional 15%. I see how much busier the libraries are every time I visit. It is extremely difficult to find space to tutor because of that and because of decreased hours. I know that I and my fellow volunteers work hard but we cannot replace paid staff. I understand the need to find cost saving measures but I urge you to spare the library these extraordinary cuts.
114	County and Schools	I recently read an article in the Connection newspapers about FBI arrest involving mortgage frauds in Fairfax County where county properties were being used to run illegal boarding houses. In the article it said the arrest of those involved in the fraud was phase 1 of the investigation. I hope phase 2 will include pursuing deportation of the illegal immigrants who were possibly residing in these boarding houses. Many county tax dollars are spent in medical care, free and reduced lunch programs in the schools for their children, and other subsidies that should not be offered to those here illegally. Perhaps the county should look into saving money there. Another suggestion for the school budget would be to stop wasting budget money on starting new initiatives regarding student performance, teacher professional development, and other programs they have no intention or means of following through on. I have worked for FCPS for 8 years now and it seems that every year the county is pushing some new initiative
115	Schools	No buses for students who can get the same services at their base school.
116	County	NO school buses for students who choose to attend a school other than their base schools if the base school provides the same or comparable services.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
117	Schools	Please consider the 40 years of research and success that supports the Immersion methodology before cutting funds for the Immersion program. FLES is a program that research shows very little success in acquiring, retaining and using a second language. How many of you took a foreign language in high school and can do more that count to 10 now? There is a huge difference between FLES and Immersion Please, please, please, arm yourselves with the research before making budget cuts in this area. The Dual-Language program which benefits ESOL low SES Spanish speakers is, as research shows, the most successful form of ESOL program. Please keep this in mind also. We want capable English speaker in our county and Dual is the best vehicle for this.
118	Schools	Get rid of all bus routes, or charge students for bus service. Raise lunch prices, charge students for books and tests, psats, ap classes and tests. Charge students for sports and extracurricular participation. Charge a surcharge for TJHS students to attend that school. Go back to 4 Areas instead of 8 Clusters, to reduce admin overhead. Reduce the number of AP's in schools. Closely monitor technology purchases: smart boards and other non essentials. Get rid of special High schools and ESOL programs.
119	Schools	Cut transportation. Where in our schools' mission is it to provide transit? I would propose cutting "convenience buses" for those parents who wait in their cars. If they want it, they can pay the county a fee for transportation. Transportation would still be provided for those on free and reduced lunch, and every principal would get a certain number of waivers to use for those children who need transportation but can't afford to pick up/drop off their kids. It is crazy we are subsidizing the kids from Oakton who live in mansions to get a ride to school at the expense of instruction. I grew up in California and transportation was cut a long time ago, and kids still show up at school. Why is transportation sacred? Why can't we say to parents that we need to teach your children, not get them to school?
120	County and Schools	My husband and I made the tradeoff to live further out from DC specifically so that our children could attend Fairfax County's schools - as did many of our peers. I am in favor of cuts such as full day kindergarten, implementing new student fees, cutting year round school calendars, but am absolutely opposed to cutting the GT centers and foreign language programs. Those programs reputation is the reason why we chose to settle in Fairfax. Though we could afford to send our kids to private, we wanted a public school education for various reasons, including diversity. If instructional programs were cut too far, we'd absolutely move closer in (and out of Fairfax) and make the switch to private. Our commute would be a lot better too.
121	Schools	Do not cut full-day kindergarten. It will end up affecting all grade levels and students' education because with less instruction time, kindergarten students will be less prepared for first grade, then the first graders will be less prepared for second grade and so on. It will not help close the achievement gap, in fact, it might make it larger.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
122	Schools	We should not be paying to bus students to GT center schools if there is level 4 support at their base school. If parents still want their child to attend the GT center then they should have to provide their own transportation. This seems to be a simple way to free up some money it won't be a lot but if we all have to make cuts that should be the first to go!
123	Schools	Please do all that you can to AVOID ADDITIONAL CUTS to the SCHOOL BUDGET. Classes are huge, counselors in the high school can't keep up with the amount of kids they counsel, and some high schools are in dire need of computers. Thank you
124	County	I am very concerned about the possible cuts for School Based Technology Specialists. As a teacher, I cannot do my job without the support my SBTS provides. Besides all the technical support provided by the SBTS, she also provides the vital link between the technology and my instruction. I feel I am fairly tech savvy, but I still rely on my SBTS to provide training, tips and classroom instruction that allows me to truly engage my 21st century learners. For the teachers who are not tech savvy, the SBTS is absolutely vital. Please do not cut this position or reduce the number of SBTS in the county. Each school truly needs their own SBTS to be able to meet the needs of the teacher, and the students!
125	Schools	RE: PTA budgets: Urge school principals to work closely with the PTA to focus spending on must-haves... rather than niceties like social events and beautification. Our PTA has more than \$125,000 in revenue. It's time to get serious and prioritize.
126	County	Library Please keep the "Early Reader book Discussion Groups" at the County Library. We attend at John Marshall Library. They are wonderful programs which encourage interactive discussion from the children. Children read a book in advance and then come prepared to discuss and question. This is an opportunity in a small group setting outside the large classroom that is rare and valuable.
127	County and Schools	I heard that FCPS will no longer have the year-around elementary schools beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. This is very disappointing news. Our children benefit beyond belief from the year-round schedule. They retain more information and knowledge and we know they are in a safe environment. Many of the children in the year-round schools come from difficult home situations. They may be coming from a shelter house, a home with a single parent, or two working parents, a low income or non-literate family. The year-round calendar with intersessions is so, very critical to ensure growth in our children and I hope the county does some reconsiderations. Thank you
128	County and Schools	As times become difficult, economically, it also is becoming more and more difficult to afford the cost of living in Fairfax County- especially with no budget increase this year. We hope this is seriously looked into for the following year, as there are many teachers considering further counties for the upcoming school year. Thank you.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
129	Schools	Thank you, Board of Supervisors, for your sincere efforts to obtain genuine community input on our FY 2011 budget. In running the budget meetings, I would like to ask that you hire your own facilitators and staff to run the community outreach sessions, to ensure that your efforts to gather accurate and comprehensive information about community views are successful. I also ask that you force FCPS to provide clear and accurate data on the positions held by people who are not full-time classroom teachers, their job titles, the names of the people holding each job, their job descriptions including any "programs," their total compensation (including salary and benefits), which building(s) they work at, whether they are classified as school-based and/or as central staff for purposes of the FY 2011 budget. If FCPS employees are classified as central staff for one purpose and school based staff for another purpose, then FCPS should tell you and the public the justification for that classification. Similarly
130	County	Is there any way the County can receive Stimulus money to prevent the collapse of so many useful, vital services ? E.g., many job-hunters need the library for vocational exam books, and the Internet since they can't afford their own computers--they are really going to have a tough time when library hours and staff are cut.
131	Schools	Please do not eliminate the elementary foreign language programs. If ever there is an opportunity for a child to learn a foreign language it is in the early years when they can better retain it. County money is better spent providing foreign language to elementary students than high school students. For our students to be prepared for a global economy, they will need foreign language skills. Please keep it. To offset these costs, I think it is fine to make Kindergarten only half day. After full day kindergarten my child is coming home exhausted everyday.
132	Schools	Expand the walker boundaries to reduce transportation costs. People will form car pools or groups of walkers. The kids should get the exercise anyway.
133	County	I wish the County Executive would institute furlough days to help off set the FY11 budget. I work in the Library System which was one of the agencies to be cut the most in FY10. We simply cannot have our budget cut any further without having a major impact on services to the citizens of FX Co. I've talked with so many county employees who would gladly take multiple days of furlough to avoid more cuts to our budgets. Please, use furlough days to help us keep our jobs and retain service to our citizens.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
134	Schools	Significantly reduce positions that are not directly serving the needs of children. Non school based administrators US-25 and above should be eliminated by 25%. Some administrative roles (including principals) can be reduced from 12 to 11 month contracts. This is done in many school districts throughout the country. SBTSs should be reduced from 11 to 10 month contracts. Senior psychology and social work positions should be abolished in their current form. There are other ways to provide leadership and supervision. Example: appoint "senior" leadership by cluster, drawing from clinicians in schools. Individuals with the greatest level of seniority and strong leadership skills can continue to serve schools at their current salary scale, as well as mentor and lead their less experienced counterparts. This has been done in the past. In fact, before senior positions became formalized, this was the way it was done. Recognizing the current fiscal difficulties, FCPS needs to go back to basics.
135	Schools	Eliminate school social work positions. Allow school principals to hire a "student service specialist" who is uniquely qualified to serve the needs of their school community. This individual may or may not be a social worker. In situations where CSA responsibilities need to be considered, the "student service specialist" may contact the appropriate county agency to acquire needed services and supports. The allocation of a "student service specialist" allows principals and cluster directors greater flexibility to identify individuals who have the skill sets needed to address community needs. It does not presume that there is a one size fits all approach to support students and gives greater authority to individual schools to address their challenges in a way that most appropriately meets their needs.
136	Schools	2010 offers tremendous opportunity for change. Create a new model for student support. Start by overhauling the current school social work model. FCPS should be the forerunners of a program design that addresses the challenges of needy children and family through an "educational" system of support. By allowing one profession to dictate its best practice design at the expense of more practical approaches to service delivery is impractical. Just as the old Special Education Pyramid Resource Specialist position was eradicated, it makes just as much sense to do the same thing with school social workers. Seek out professional groups that can address the needs of indigent populations and equip students with the skills needed to build success in and educational environment. Create a new model for student support. This is the year it needs to be done!
137	Schools	As a tax paying citizen, the most distressing thing to learn about last and this year's budget is the amount of money wasted on non school based administrative positions. While many departments have cut back, FCPS has still found a way to preserve coordinator, manager, and senior level psychology and social work positions - three tiers of unnecessary fluff. While it is acknowledged that there have been some minor reductions, the fact of the matter is that the county has not sufficiently addressed the need for a complete redesign of clinical services that would effectively result in the elimination of these positions in its entirety. There are several reasons this needs to be done. 1. There are other ways to provide supervision and manage clinical staff. 2. Most of the people in these positions receive huge pay checks without the educational credentials to justify their increased salaries. They do not bring anything new or original to the role that correlates to student success nor (for the most part) do they even work



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		with students. 3. After reducing the number of senior positions, the county went on to add four (or more) twelve month positions. How does this save money? If we want to be truthful, these positions are not vital to the operation of the school system nor do they directly impact students. The answers are complex but one thing is certain, teachers and support staff working in schools need to be prioritized. Decentralize! Services belong in schools. Eliminate all of these extraneous positions.
138	County and Schools	You can't continue to promise us good roads and good schools and keep the tax rate level. The county's insistence that school must continue to cut staff and services is short sighted. FCPS is biggest draw for talented people and the companies that employ them. The transfer to FCPS should be increased so that: no increase in class size maintaining technology support to keep schools in the 21st century. Expansion of full day kindergarten to all schools no cut backs in transportation cost. To do otherwise will cost us more in the long run in the loss of jobs and revenue production.
139	County	I am writing in support of continued funding for ADS services. I am a former client of Crossroads who has benefited a great deal from ADS services. I have been in recovery for almost 5 years and I am a productive member of society. I am a school teacher now and if I hadn't had the opportunity to get treatment I would most likely have severe consequences from my disease. Please do not limit funding for treatment services. Thanks and God Bless.
140	County and Schools	Thanks you for the opportunity that our children have to experience foreign language in our schools. Part of what sets Fairfax apart from other school systems is that opportunity. My son has just been enrolled in the Spanish Immersion program this year, and it is simply outstanding. Although he is unable to realize all the benefits of this program at present, his future will certainly be improved because of this privilege. I implore and encourage you to keep our schools great, despite the budgetary challenges, and keep foreign languages in them. Best of luck for success!
141	Schools	I have two children in elementary school. One is in our base school and one is in a GT center. Both schools start and end at the exact same time. My concern is that the GT transportation will be cut, and the start/end times not shifted to accommodate the change. If GT transportation must be cut, I have no problem transporting my child, but I would request that the county take a look at start and end times and ensure that feeder schools and GT centers do not start and end at the same time. This would allow for a parent to transport their children when they are enrolled in different schools.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
142	Schools	In order to save money, the school system should consider removing positions that are not directly associated with the educational needs of students. One of the largest funding groups that should be considered for a "Classification Study" and revision of job description is school workers, the majority of whom do not hold an educational degree. If the premise of their profession is that needy students are supported through their intervention, the system needs to take a closer look at ways to address those needs using alternative, available resources, namely school counselors and county social workers associated with the Department of Family Services. It is not necessary to have school social workers function in the traditional capacity they once held. There have been many advancements in society and technology that can facilitate counseling, referral, and resource identification for families in need. Programs such as the Coordinated Services Line, 703-222-0880, provide one stop assessment of needs. Sc
143	Schools	My children are in Spanish Immersion at Lake Anne Elementary School. This is a very important program for my family. We believe that all Americans should be bilingual and immersion is a great way to obtain a second language. My son is now in 7th grade at Langston Hughes Middle School and is continuing his study of Spanish there. He is able to hold a conversation with anyone in Spanish and certainly in English. My husband and I do not speak Spanish and the immersion program is the only way we could have given both of our children the ability to speak Spanish. Please keep the Spanish Immersion program in Fairfax County Public Schools.
144	Schools	There has been much discussion about the necessity of school social workers and the viability of keeping them in the school system. While the discussion on this topic is wide and varied, it should be noted that although many opponents acknowledge the value of social work practice, they take exception to the fact that the county is spending money needlessly at a time when every penny within the county's insufficient budget must be allocated in ways that are fiscally responsible. It does not appear to be forward thinking or progressive to support an entire system that promotes the well being of children and families (via Child and Family Services) and then turn around and spend even more money to ensure that there is another body of social work staff within the school system. This is much like having a full staffing of teachers assigned to work within the school and then another group assigned to Child and Family Services. To put in succinctly: there seems to be a redundancy here. At a time of fiscal
145	County and Schools	I agree with cutting out the School Based Tech. Specialists...what is it that they really do? I also agree with cutting out Full day kindergarten. Full day K not needed in most schools.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
146	Schools	<p>Change student service positions to "Pupil Personnel Worker", similar to Montgomery County Public Schools. Reclassify social workers and related service providers and place on teacher salary scale. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF CLASSIFICATION: Under direction, uses knowledge of FCPS programs and community resources, and utilizes a collaborative process with administrators, school staff, and other student services staff, to assist in determining resources, strategies, interventions, and recommended placements for students who are not experiencing success in school. Serves as an advocate for students and their families to access appropriate services. Acts as case manager for identified students in intervention implementation, data collection, progress monitoring, and programs changes. Serves as liaison with school system, local community and government service providers.</p>
147	Schools	<p>In many school districts throughout the country, clinical services are delivered in a manner that is sustainable long term. That is not the case in Fairfax County Public Schools where social work caseloads are unevenly distributed and, in many instances, inequitably staffed. This is a professional group that is fraught with challenges. Historically, there has been a constant struggle to find (and redefine) an identity that validates its existence in the schools. While there is some merit to having these types of conversations, the repetitive nature of these discussions should prompt key decision makers to take a closer look at what is needed for students and begin to explore the purpose and legitimacy of having a singular professional group identified under a specific job category (and description) that can be easily filled by other discipline areas. Fiscal Implications The economic toll of having an employment group that cannot perform other educational functions has turned this professional group into a great liability. FCPS can easily save over \$2,000,000.00++ a year by eliminating central office managers and senior clinicians, as well as social workers overlapping at the high school level. Ways in which other school systems have managed to save money is by allocating psychology and social work positions to the neediest educational populations, i.e. special education. In select cases, where individual schools determine that other clinical services are needed, grant-funded positions are sought, along with bridge supports garnered through local child and family service agencies. What has made FCPS unique in their inability to resolve this issue is that it continues to allow clinical management teams to decide how it will work with schools, instead of having a representative team dually certified in educational administration and clinical services develop a plan that makes the most sense. Rationale: A decision making body with expansive knowledge can be entrusted to make strong decisions with clarity and objectivity. It can also address the needs of the school system as a whole for the purpose of promoting a healthy economic recovery. What can be done? Determine the best way to consolidate similar employment categories. CHANGE the job title and description to match the current needs of the system.</p>

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
148	Schools	Special Services needs a change. Try something different!! Adopt a new student service model that allows for a wider body of educators to address student needs. This would allow the school system a greater locus of control and not have one specific discipline (outside of education) dominate and monopolize how services are delivered. An overhaul of special services will allow the school system to choose workers with multiple skills sets to accomplish a range of tasks. The idea is to bring in fresh ideas and momentum -- thereby strengthening and enhancing existing services. The most important impact this will have is that it will save the county money by taking away the need for "specialists" who must be paid higher wages by virtue of their content-specific knowledge that no one outside of their discipline area can perform. Take a look at Montgomery County: Pupil Personnel Worker MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLASS DESCRIPTION OFFICIAL TITLE: Pupil Personnel Worker CODE: 0931 WORKIN
149	Schools	I am opposed to eliminating full-day kindergarten and summer school. President Obama has said that he thinks there should be more schooling, not less. In this area of the country, with a highly-educated population, close to the Washington, DC, we should be setting examples and do what is best for children if we, as a nation, want to be able to compete globally. We can't have a knee-jerk reaction, but must plan long-term and for larger goals.
150	County and Schools	A voluntary, short-term furlough would help save on salary costs. There are probably plenty of people who would rather take a one to three week leave without pay, in order to save jobs or programs.
151	County	Cut the very expensive autism consultant fees and ABA coaches. We only need people to ping ideas off of.
152	Schools	Teachers need a COLA and/or step increase this year. I know of many teachers not willing to stay in Fairfax County next year without at least one of these. The cost to live in this area is too great and there are other jobs in the region which pay much better. High teacher turnover is very detrimental to student learning. Please consider cutting full day Kindergarten -- the day is way too long for those kids and they are exhausted and drained. They still need to play at that age!!! Motor skills still need to be developed. Sitting in those chairs all day does not benefit anyone!
153	Schools	Employees should receive at least a COLA for the 2010-11 fiscal year. Additional administrative cuts and closures could be made at the upper levels and non-school levels. Modified calendar could be dropped across the board. If there are no raises coming, the calendar should be shortened to compensate. Drop the insane amount of testing that is done, especially in the elementary schools. There is not time to teach, only time to test.
154	County	Don't place the burden for cuts on one area of government and leave others untouched. It is tempting to see schools or law enforcement as sacrosanct, but it does not serve us well either in the long or the short term to be gutting programs in ways that will take them decades to rebuild. In a revenue crunch, all programs should be proportionally cut, and all capital expenses deferred. I'm particularly concerned that libraries not be treated as "nice but not needed". Literacy, learning, and citizen research support are essential for communities in good times and bad.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
155	Schools	I am strongly opposed to eliminating Fairfax County's immersion programs. This is why we moved to VA and it would seriously undermine Country residents ability to do business with local and international markets in the long run, among many other implications. Kids need to be exposed EARLY to second languages, not when they get to high school. Thank you for your consideration.
156	Schools	Please do not cut the Spanish immersion programs. I live in Fairfax specifically for these programs. They give our children such vital skills in these global times.
157	Schools	Eliminate the Foreign Language in Elementary Schools program.
158	Schools	I recently heard rumors of moving back to 1/2 day Kindergarten programs in order to help with the budget for the 2010-2011 school year. This scares me on so many levels! One of the reasons that FCPS continues to "outscore" neighboring school districts is because of the vast number of FULL day kindergarten classes that we have throughout the county. This gives kindergarten teachers the TIME necessary to TEACH all of the valueable skills that our youngest learners need, as well as extend their learning in the major content areas. I feel that it would be a HUGE disservice to our youngest students to take away such valuable learning time.
159	County	For IDS services. Have the "transportation coordinator" carry a case load of state plan option and waiver cases, as it is a CM2 position. This position could be pulling in extra money, as the responsibilities of Fastran have declined and there is nothing for this position really to do for logisticare services.
160	County	Switch over to Voice over IP. This will save county thousands if not millions of dollars in toll calls. The initial set up cost is a bit expensive, but in the end it saves a lot of money. With the voiceover ip will allow more people to work from home if they have high speed internet, which means the county can free up space in their buildings. (no lights, no heat, no energy to pay for and no need to expand)
161	County	I would like to see more days off with out pay spaced out, if that would save jobs...Is this going to happen anymore?
162	County	It is unfortunate that the budget cuts have a greater impact on those of us who plan to retire because retirement is based on highest salary which for us will not change for the last two years.
163	County and Schools	Possible ideas to overcome the budget shortfall: * For all agencies, temporarily turn paid holiday leave into unpaid leave. In a way this translates to furlough days, but these are days that the agencies would have been closed anyway. * Charge outside groups who want to use meeting room facilities at libraries and schools. * Charge sports teams who want to use fields at county parks.
164	County and Schools	The County should remove the "desktop" printers off the desks and force employee's to print to the networked multifunctional printers. The private sector did this 10 years ago. Studies show the following: Employee's print less due to the inconvenience of walking down the hall to a network printer. Less IT support - fewer devices to purchase, track and maintain. Cost per copy on a multifunctional printer can be as much as half the cost as a local desktop printer. Reduce the carbon footprint by reducing electricity cost and paper consumption. Potential 6-7 figure savings!

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
165	County and Schools	The County needs to do two things in regard to the copier program. One, start doing direct charge backs for copies printed on the multifunctional printers (MFD). If an employee knew a direct cost to them is associated with printing or copying then they would think twice about printing. Currently the perception of County employees is that it does not cost me anything to make copies on the copiers, but I have to pay for them in the print shop. The next is to put print limits for the number of copies or prints made on the MFD's. All printing or copies over the limit would be directed to the print shop. Looking at fund 504 the approved fy2010 budget in 2009, the copier program printed 55.8 million impressions vs 22.3 in the print shop. The lease and maintenance of the equipment result in an actual cost per copy of \$.023 in the print shop vs .052 for the copier program. This does not reflect in the budget books as the methodology is different when computing. The net savings to the county would have b
166	County and Schools	1) The Fairfax Fair every June: Could it be scaled back or eliminated until better times? 2) Athletic equipment in the schools: Do the students pay a fee for use of the varsity sports equipment? If not, fees for equipment use could help the budget. 3) Library books and other checked out materials: What about a nominal fee for each item borrowed (\$.10 or \$.15)? 4) Local taxes on cigarettes/liquor: Would an increase here help? 5) Real estate taxes on the churches & non-profits: Controversial, yes, but it may eventually be needed to keep localities from going bankrupt. I donate a substantial amount of money to my parish. It doesn't bother me to see some of it used for real estate taxes. It would be like War Bond Revenue during WW2.
168	Schools	Home schooling department is horrible. The employees are rude. The school should be promoting home schooling. They waste peoples time.
169	County and Schools	Lights on the fields are always on, if they were turned off there would be a savings. Same with the parks parking lots lights. Why can't they be put on a timer?
<b>Added October 21, 2009</b>		
170	Schools	Whatever you do please do not pull back on the elementary schools you have just started full-time kindergarten. As a working parent just dealing with the half-day Mon dismissal is a mess, I would love to say all of Fairfax county was so affluent we can all be stay at home moms but realistically most of us need to work while our kids are in school for the full day. Thanks for your considerate!
171	Schools	Please maintain the funding for language immersion programs in our schools. They are a valuable resource to our students, and should be funded in the budget. The programs do not add financial pressure to schools as parents provide the transportation and they benefit the schools and students in countless ways. Teachers carry course loads like any other teacher, so staffing issues are not a problem either. Thank you.
172	Schools	Consider stopping buses to Thomas Jefferson HSST. Many of these students have multiple resources and could carpool / drive / arrange transit. This would save many, many bus runs from every single HS and surrounding counties.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
173	County and Schools	FY 2011 Budget Cuts: 5 Easy Steps toward Savings and Efficiency 1. Change ALL 12 month contracts to 11 month contracts. This includes building administrators, senior psychologists and social workers, procedural support specialists, school administrative assistants, and school based technology specialists. 2. Building use during summer months should be restricted to special education staff, students, and maintenance personnel! 3. Redesign Student Services! Option 1 Eliminate school psychologists and social workers. Clinicians with educational degrees/backgrounds can be absorbed into the system in a different capacity. Option 2 Reduce school psychology and social work positions: No more having two of each at high schools and no more specialists with honorable "center" assignments. At a time of economic hardship, generalists with the ability to work with a global population of students and families are needed! Option 3 Redefine the role of school psychology and social w
174	Schools	My son is enrolled in the Spanish Emersion Program at Laurel Ridge Elementary School. I am writing to strongly suggest the continuation of all the second language emersion programs as they are a valuable, cost efficient way of expanding and enriching the educational opportunities in our schools. Based on educational studies, the efficacy of these programs is sufficient to warrant their continuation. Additionally, as the global community continues to become interdependent, the necessity for bilingual, well educated adults is essential. It is no longer possible to view single language proficiency as sufficient. There can be no doubt that to eliminate these programs would have far reaching, negative consequences and would ultimately impair the reputation and success of the Fairfax County Public Schools.
175	Schools	Give employees step and Cost of Living Allowances. They deserve to be compensated for their hard work.
176	County and Schools	Older employees should have incentive to retire, reducing the workforce through attrition. EQUALITY- furloughs for General County staff should mean furloughs for SCHOOLS, too. Laws prohibiting re-allocating bond money should be changed to permit re-evaluation of priorities as prudence dictates, including canceling projects no longer necessary. User fees preferred to tax hikes.
177	County	At the very minimum the library needs to stop the before and after hours meeting room availability - huge energy cost savings. At the very least there should be a cost for use of the meeting rooms - other county agencies charges, such as schools, parks, and even the government center. This would help keep the libraries open and current materials would continue to be purchased.
178	Schools	Eliminate the elementary school foreign language program.
179	Schools	Employees need step and cost of living increases. The last round of budget cuts was ridiculously unfair to tenured employees who were already sitting for two years at a mandated rest point. We are not interested in the type of negotiation that has a one size fits all response. Employees who have been in the system long term need adequate compensation and should not be slighted because decision makers want to do what is "best for everyone". The purpose of having seniority is to achieve a certain level of insulation. There are bills to pay. Folks don't have enough money to eat. Give them their just due. They have earned it.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
180	Schools	I understand that the schools are funded largely by property tax, and the recent burst bubble has put the county school system in a bind. Is there any way to recoup this money? Schools are vitally important to keep northern Virginia a tech and white collar job magnet. How about a bracketed property tax, such that homes greater than \$X pay more? How about an education/county tax for renters, who would not otherwise be paying into the system? We need to come together to fund our critical infrastructure.
181	Schools	We love FLES Spanish at Navy - please keep this program, it was a critical factor in keeping our child at Navy and not applying for the Talented and Gifted program.
182	County and Schools	One thing the county may want to look at is the number of children receiving free and reduced breakfast/lunch, and yet they have iPods, electronic games and expensive clothes. Is there a way that families who are participating in this program can be more closely monitored, thus cutting down on the amount of money spent for this?
183	Schools	Please do not cut foreign language programs at the elementary schools. Fairfax is noted for having one of the best school systems in the country and immersion programs are a big part of that -the immersion programs bring in a diverse population you may not normally enjoy with a standard curriculum. I have seen the level of parental participation and volunteerism at levels you would not get with a standard curriculum b/c these parents are challenging their children at a very early age and they realize that comes with an extra level of involvement. My children have gotten the benefit of the language immersion program and I hope it remains a benefit to the children in the grades below them.
184	Schools	Please do a one time assessment per family who have children in public schools so that we may continue to have the decent class sizes, Spanish immersion programs and full day kindergarten. I would be willing to do a one time fee so that my child can continue to receive these benefits at Fort Hunt Elementary.
185	Schools	As a parent of a base school child that is not enrolled in the Language Immersion, I wholly approve the cessation of the language immersion programs in elementary schools. I believe it creates a dichotomy among the students and in the eyes of some faculty that those student enrolled in the language immersion are somehow better than those not. Kimberly Larkin
186	Don't Know	I am concerned about the meaning of "Cut School-Based Technology Specialists" under "At Risk in FY 2011." I hope this does not mean cutting the entire program. I feel there needs to be at least one SBTS in every school for technology failures and errors. Without their immediate response and help with my technology issues, my lessons for teaching could be completely wrecked, as the technology issues happen at unexpected times. Especially as technology progresses, these are the people we need in our school to help us learn and understand the new technology so we may pass to our students the best education possible. Unfortunately, I do not have any suggestions to help the economic situation, but if an idea occurs, I will be sure to share.



## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
187	County and Schools	Schools - my daughter's class already has 36 students in it - PLEASE do not increase class size - for the first time ever (she is in 5th grade) she has come home saying she hates school, the class is too big, the kids are too loud, she is bored. Also the foreign language elementary school program is one of the best in the country. Study after study has shown that children need to learn languages when they are very young. Please do not cut this valuable program!
188	Schools	I find it preposterous the County is willing to cut programs for educating students while maintaining a bloated number of personnel for administration of the schools. Most schools have multiple secretaries who aren't doing anything other than talking to each other and ignoring me when I walk in. One working secretary would be enough for the schools and better than two or three non-working secretaries. Additionally, some schools have multiple vice-principals. Most schools outside the state of VA do fine with one vice principal. The scary thin is that these two positions are just the obvious ones. An educated guess tells me there is plenty of more fat to be trimmed in school administration below the surface of what is obvious. The problem is the schools receive over half of the taxes raised and have become accustomed to doing less with more dollars than they needed. Now the county school system can't begin to imagine how to do more with less people who become more productive. The only people pulling
189	Schools	We cannot cut services that go directly to the education of our children. We must be committed to helping form responsible citizens. Classroom teachers, counselors, special education teachers, music, art, and physical education teachers should all be considered essential personnel. Technology instruction and the personnel that provide and support it are essential to the skills needed in today's world. Smaller class size should be maintained. Non-essential programs such as foreign language in the elementary schools can be cut in order to maintain the essential programs.
190	Schools	Please do your utmost to preserve the allotment for the schools. I have three children in Kindergarten, Third, and Fifth grades at Bailey's Elementary. All are out-of-boundary participants in the Spanish Immersion program. We depend on the magnet bussing to participate. And Bailey's depends on the bussed-in magnet kids to ensure the economic, cultural, and linguistic diversity of its student population. Thank you for preserving the magnet bussing last year. Please keep it in the budget this year. It has taken a long time for Bailey's to become the success story it is today. We are counting on you to ensure the continued success of this model school.
191	Schools	Please make sure the cuts do not affect the education level - we need well-trained teachers and equipment. This may be a crazy idea, but could the maintenance budget be cut at some schools be cut if the children were given 'chores'? I think responsibility is one thing schools need to help teach anyway - and too many children are not given chores these days. Why can't each classroom spend the last 5 minutes having 2 kids go empty the trash, or sweep the floor, or whatever the maintenance workers do? This seems very reasonable especially for Middle and High Schools. Good luck.
192	County	I am a heavy user of the libraries and the recreation centers and am opposed to the disproportionate reductions being planned for libraries and park services. I would be willing to pay for a car decal again to avoid cuts

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
193	Schools	Four points regarding partial immersion programs... First, cutting the programs is short sided. By the time the budget implications are fully realized (years from now), there will be serious regret at the loss of these wonderful programs. It seems like a knee jerk reaction where the long term cost completely outweighs the short term benefit. Second, Fairfax County is known for its immersion programs nationwide. In fact, we moved to Fairfax County because of the immersion programs and it is a big selling point for potential employees of my husband's company. Cutting immersion will certainly damage the reputation of Fairfax County schools. This could have far reaching consequences in the future, including how the college application Fairfax County students are evaluated. Third, it is my experience and impression from the immersion program that my children attend that a large number of immersion students also qualify for GT services. Without immersion, those children would be moving to GT center
194	Schools	Please keep funding Bailey's ES for Arts and Sciences, as well as the out-of-boundary busses to the school. It's a real gem of a school. Our kids are thriving there. Thanks!
195	County and Schools	In regards to the elementary school budget, I would like to request continuation of the language immersion program (our family is at Fort Hunt Elementary). We have two children in the program and after 5 years of investing our own time, money (tutoring), transportation and volunteering in the program, we would like to see our children finish the elementary phase and possibly the middle school supplementation of the immersion program. As an alternative to ending the program for existing students and kicking them out of their schools, maybe it could be phased out gradually by discontinuing admission into the program at 1st grade level. It would be sad to see the immersion program go away as an option, but if it would allow existing students to finish what they have begun, it might be the only choice. Alternatively, I prefer to see the full-day kindergarten cut back to 1/2 day, since it is only one year of the 7 years children spend in elementary school, and the school years get progressively stringent aft
196	County and Schools	I would like to see the county focus on improvements to the Seven Corners to Baileys Cross roads corridor on RT 7. Making the area more walk-able and pedestrian friendly as well as improving the horrific traffic flow problems. I would also like to see a continued investment in education. Specifically the Bailey's Elementary school. Funding for a full spectrum education from arts to sciences is key to ensuring the future success of our children.
197	Schools	I realize that budget cuts are likely given the present state of the economy. I urge you not to target foreign language programs, GT, bus transport to elementary and middle school GT centers and other programs aimed at gifted students. We, like many other residents, live in Fairfax because of the excellence of its schools. If you reduce that excellence, less people will want to live in Fairfax, damaging property values, and hence further lowering your real estate tax income. This would be self-defeating.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
198	Schools	<p>I agree with discontinuing full-day kindergarten for budget purposes. Even though, I believe the children would benefit from additional time at school. I think there are enough resources for families to supplement on their own, if they wanted. The County has been half-day kindergarten for many years, since I was a kindergartener in Fairfax County. Waiting until times are better to implement full-day kindergarten is logical. I disagree with eliminating ES foreign language. Children are better able to learn another language in elementary school. In this global economy, providing our children with the means to communicate with other cultures is vital. It would be a disservice to our future to eliminate the ES foreign language programs. I know at our elementary school, Kent Gardens, people are turned away from the program due to a great amount of interest. Most foreign countries teach multiple languages at a young age; it is the best time for them to learn. The benefits are so great that the costs are worth it. We cannot afford to put our children behind those of other countries. The world is getting smaller and we need to provide our children the means to deal with it in the future. If possible, increasing SACC would be beneficial. At Kent Gardens, I know there is a waiting list around 150 and that it takes families about 3 years to get into the program. This would be a revenue source for the County. According to the Smart Services Committee: SACC information provided along with the budget information, 400 children were added to the program during the 2009-2010 school year. This resulted in a profit of \$225,561 for the County. Additional costs could potentially be reduced in the program, as well. Our center receives new items each year, such that at the end of the year, all games, etc. are given to the kids, even if they were never opened. I think that some of this excess could be reduced. I also think that families would be willing to provide some of those items, if requested. I do believe the program is beneficial and obviously more families want to participate if the waiting list is over 2,600 students. If all these students were added, that could equate to around \$1,467,000 in profit for the County. I also think that the bus transportation could be reevaluated. At our school, the number of students per bus varies between 36-74. I think there could be more efficient routes, with some stops consolidated.</p>
199	Schools	<p>Find a way to keep our schools competitive--keep FLES! Keep our teachers happy and find a way to pay them what they deserve.</p>
200	County and Schools	<p>My name is _____ a parent at Lake Anne Elementary School whose children participate in the Spanish Immersion program. My daughter is in Kindergarten and my son is in 3rd. We love the Spanish Immersion program and all that it offers our children. We 'won' a lottery ticket to Hunterwoods Magnet school but we turned it down to attend the Spanish Immersion. My son recently had the opportunity to go to our GT Center Forest Edge but we stayed true to our belief that learning a second language in the immersion program is invaluable and can't be gained from a one day a week class. This is what makes Fairfax County School System special. We ask that you do not eliminate this program.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
201	Schools	My comments are directed specifically at cuts aimed at Fairfax County Public Schools. The FCPS Vision states, "FCPS values a well-rounded education that goes beyond basics, and encompasses the arts, literacy, technology, and preparation for the world of work." The schools prepare our children to live and work in a global society. And success in this global society is achieved through foreign language instruction, which is an easy target for elimination in times of economic crisis. For some children, it leads to proficiency in a secondary language while it enriches the understanding of other cultures for all. Learning a foreign language is wonderful brain food that fosters cognitive development that ultimately carries over to other core areas of study. I've been reading several sources that advocate the implementation of foreign language programs in the elementary schools, and all reference studies that demonstrate students who learn foreign languages outperform their peers in reading and mathematics. The studies also show a connection to creativity, memory, and other basic skills such as listening. Please don't deprive our children of the competitive edge afforded to them through foreign language instruction in our schools.
202	Schools	In my humble opinion, our "future" is currently residing in the schools. If there must be cuts, I would suggest that available funds be concentrated on the school system. We have dealt with too much traffic, poor road conditions, dwindling Metro services, devaluation of our homes with no concurrent reduction in property taxes for this long, might as well continue if it means the schools have what they need to continue providing "quality education", then so be it. Thank you.
203	Don't Know	I don't see why we have to pay for magnet school transportation. I have several people in my area who don't attend their local public school in order to go to schools like Bailey's etc. Why should we pay for that? Parents who do send their kids elsewhere tend to be more conscientious and involved. That's why we need them in our neighborhood schools. If they don't want to help people in their own backyard then let them pay to do otherwise. Is it really so they can learn a foreign language? I'm not quite sure about that. Also, I would have to say a tax hike in conjunction with that. I am a new parent with kids at school, so I am just learning the process. We can't make our classrooms bigger and take away more things from the kids than are already taken. Thank you for your consideration.
204		I am concerned about eliminating all foreign language program. Once being eliminated, it will take so much time and effort to establish the program of same quality. Bilingual education is very complex and so far Fairfax county has been doing the great job. My suggestion to compromise the budget-cut and need is to charge small language program fee for immersion class. I think parents are willing to pay certain amount of money per month instead of eliminate the entire program.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
205	Schools	<p>Budget Reductions are Needed in the Department of Student Services  FCPS can save a significant amount of money by reducing overlapping job categories, such as psychology, social work, and counseling positions. Of the three categories identified, social workers are the only group that is not required to have a strong educational background. What would be helpful for the community to know is the type of added value they bring to the table. It is not enough to say that their profession provides resources to help needy students access food, clothing, and shelter. There are other groups and avenues within the county that can do this, such as the Department of Family Services. It is also not enough to say that they are the required managers of CSA cases. You don't need to have the large number of social workers on staff to respond to the relatively small number of students and families requiring this type of intervention. One thing to consider: it is possible to fulfill this need with a small concentration of clinicians organized and divided around clusters. Finally, the response should not be geared toward behavioral interventions or outcomes, as school psychologists casemanage functional behavior assessments and behavioral intervention plans and Behavior Management Teachers have been hired throughout the county for consultation and support. Continued school social practice in Fairfax County Public Schools should be contingent on a report that identifies the specific type of programs and services that come from the Office of Social Work. These programs should have a direct impact on the academic needs of students across subject areas. It should also support school board goals, enhance curriculum, strengthen teacher performance, and show a strong connection to the community. What would helpful to know are the names of these programs and services, the measured impact, what schools have participated in implementation, how students and teachers have benefited, and what data exists that can attest to its merit.</p>
206	Schools	<p>Continued school social practice in Fairfax County Public Schools should be contingent on a report that identifies the specific type of programs and services that come from the Office of Social Work. These programs should have a direct impact on the academic needs of students across subject areas. It should also support school board goals, enhance curriculum, strengthen teacher performance, and show a strong connection to the community. What would helpful to know are the names of these programs and services, the measured impact, what schools have participated in implementation, how students and teachers have benefited, and what data exists that can attest to its merit.</p>

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208	Schools	<p>Special Services needs a new vision and new leadership. The school system has lost a lot of money by empowering certain groups like psychologists and social workers to exercise their own rights and privileges over the past few years. An educational system with the reputation of being a shining example of school system operations should have no difficulty understanding the dangers of having select groups regulate itself without appropriate supervision. Clinical administrators should have advanced degrees and an understanding of the educational system as a whole. They should also be able to successfully integrate their own professional practice with the larger educational community. That has not happened. There are repeated discussions of who is supposed to do what. There is no clear vision of student support. The leadership is weak. Social workers and psychologists are in constant competition with one another. There is just plain mayhem. Why is the county spending all of this money? These</p>
209	Schools	<p>No more duplication of services! Kim Dockery, Assistant Superintendent of Special Services, should be asked for a detailed report on the type of programs and services offered through the Office of Social Work. What would helpful to include are the names of these programs and services, the schools that have participated in implementation, the measured impact, how students and teachers have benefited, and the type of data available that can attest to its value. These programs should have a direct impact on the academic needs of students across subject areas. It should also support school board goals, enhance curriculum, and show a strong connection to members of the community. What needs to be ascertained is how social work practice differs from other discipline areas and how their professional group is uniquely capable of assisting students with their academic needs. It is not sufficient to state that they provide resources to needy students via food, clothing, shelter, and mental health services b</p>

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210	Schools	No more duplication of services! Kim Dockery, Assistant Superintendent of Special Services, should be asked for a detailed report on the type of programs and services offered through the Office of Social Work. What would helpful to include are the names of these programs and services, the schools that have participated in implementation, the measured impact, how students and teachers have benefited, and the type of data available that can attest to its value. These programs should have a direct impact on the academic needs of students across subject areas. It should also support school board goals, enhance curriculum, and show a strong connection to members of the community. What needs to be ascertained is how social work practice differs from other discipline areas and how their professional group is uniquely capable of assisting students with their academic needs. It is not sufficient to state that they provide resources to needy students via food, clothing, shelter, and mental health services b
211	Schools	Part of the difficulty in responding to the current budget deficit and the question of clinical services in the schools is the inability of the Board of Supervisors to ask (and receive answers to) the hard, underlying questions of how social work practice, in particular, is salient to school system operations. Some areas that require further exploration are as follows: 1. Does the profession have the ingrained skill set to keep up with current demands as defined by the school system? 2. Does its reliance on "systems thinking" and coordination of services prevent it from having the originality of thought needed to come up with original products, resources, and services that will enhance educational practice? 3. Does its revered philosophy of mental health practice keep it from delivering a more practical approach to service delivery? 4. What are the ways its profession addresses the academic needs of students (program, goals and objectives, population, methodology, and outcomes)? While there
212	County and Schools	The Board of Supervisors has to put schools and public safety 1st. I love our Parks -- but why are we buying new land and putting artificial turf on fields so adults can play --- and asking our Fire, Police and Teacher to continue to do more with less? Reduce Park Budget to maintenance only. Do Not provide County Vehicles to FX Co employees - let them provide their own car and deduct mileage expense from their 1040. Inflation is down so COLA isn't in order -- but you need to give the schools adequate funds to Pay teachers who have earned a Step Increase, or qualified for a new step because of Finishing an Advanced Degree. Class size is sacred -- this isn't soup we are talking about - additional students per classroom "waters down" the level of instruction students receive. We don't have the space or staffing to continue to provide Band and Strings at the Elementary level -- move it to the ACE program and charge parents the actual cost of the Teacher and cost to keep the building open past normal school hours. Same goes for Foreign Language and GT/AAP Resource. IF Level 4 GT services are available at a child's base school, then we shouldn't give parents the option of the child attending base school or a Center Program. Consider Postponing Advance Placement until Grade 4 -- or make child's eligibility contingent on scoring at the Advance level on all 3rd Gr SOL tests. Stop letting Richmond decide when we start school. Start the week before Labor Day - to get all the Beg Yr stuff done and then closes all offices and facilities to ALL use Dec 23 - 1st full week in January. Groups that want to use GYMS weekends and evenings should pay all associated Overhead, including the clerical cost to accept and manage the reservations.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
213	County	It appears to me that the Supervisors are more interested in getting themselves re-elected telling the taxpayers in FX CO what they want to hear ---than making the hard decisions necessary so FXCO remains a great place to raise a family. You should be screaming your lungs out at the 2 candidates for Governor and grilling them for a commitment that more of what we send to Richmond will come back to FXCO for Roads and Schools. You should be telling the State Board of Education that we WILL OPEN SCHOOLS when We FEEL it Makes the most sense for instruction -- Not always the Tuesday after labor days. AND YOU need to spend your lunches at schools, on busses picking up the handicapped, at our homeless shelters, mental health waiting rooms, fire stations, police squad rooms... instead of having power lunches with the well connected at Chamber of Commerce, golf courses, and dinner clubs.
214	Schools	Fairfax County Public Schools is facing a fundamental problem that is costing over \$10,000,000+ a year in excess wages. This problem is rooted in the competition and duplication of services between school psychologists and social workers. Each discipline has played a role in bringing this about. The moment one professional group feels it is left out or marginalized from recognition, it seeks to take on the same type of function as their counterpart in order to be seen as having the same type of skill set. This cycle repeats itself over and over again and is even perpetuated at the administrative level. As a result, the school system ends up paying twice the amount of money it needs to because it has two different disciplines performing the same types of roles and responsibilities. Steps need to be taken to put a stop to this. The Board of Supervisors should exercise some authority in having school administrators develop a plan of action that keeps this from happening again and again. The unwillingness to individuate and develop separate identities is creating a major problem at a time of unprecedented fiscal crisis. Sometimes convictions firmly held can cost more than we should be willing to pay. Irrevocable change is caused when we are not up to paying.
215	Schools	I realize the importance of everyone doing their part in this tough economic climate, however, the elimination of full-day Kindergarten would be a devastating decision. Positive assessment results since the 'full-day K' was begun, make it an essential feature of Title I schools. Please, keep the essential feature of the full-day K , especially in the Title I schools.
216	Schools	Dear Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, In the face of a reduced budget, you are faced with having to make some difficult decisions. I understand one being considered is dropping the foreign language immersion programs from our elementary schools. Some members of our community may view these programs as a luxury during economically tough times. But the immersion programs are not a luxury. In addition to giving participating students hard skills, these programs foster an outward-thinking culture that benefits us all. As an alumni of Fairfax County Public Schools, with international work experience, and now a multilingual and multicultural household of my own, I know something of what I speak. I studied German, my first foreign language, at McLean High School from 1984 to 1987. This experience was difficult and ultimately ineffective. So though perhaps less expensive than immersion programs, this old fashioned American approach, of starting foreign language education in high school,



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		is actually a was
217	Schools	I sincerely hope that funding for FLES and foreign language immersion programs will not be cut in the budget deliberations. Foreign language studies are essential for a top level school district, adding immeasurably to cultural studies and the development of an informed world view in elementary and middle school students.
218	Schools	When my husband and I moved here 5 years ago, we chose Fairfax County specifically because of the language programs. We believe that it is an incredible asset to our children in a global economy. We understand that there is a budget crises and would be open to other changes - perhaps a higher lunch fee or perhaps not having smart boards in the classrooms. This to me is a ridiculous waste of money if we are talking about cutting actual programs.
219	Schools	Please do NOT cut any School-Based Technology Specialist positions in the FCPS. Cutting these positions will put the county right back to where it was in 1996. This is not good for our kids! If the School-Based Technology Specialist is cut it will be many years before the technology program recovers. Our kids are doing awesome things right now, and they need to continue.
220	Schools	How about cutting back or eliminating PAC (preschool autism class) summer programs. Or having staff leave with the kids at mid-day during the summer.
221	Schools	Although this is a difficult time for Fairfax County Public Schools, I am shocked at the proposal to cut or reduce School Based Technology Specialists. This position is vital for the success of our students and directly impacts the 3 Student Achievement Goals set forth by our own School Board members. Using technology is a part of our kids lives, and we need to teach them how to use it effectively. This position is essential for keeping FCPS students, teachers, staff and community a part of the 21st century and moving forward. FCPS must keep our students at the forefront, and cutting SBTS will be a huge loss for our students and community. Although programs such as band, strings, and foreign language at the elementary level are wonderful to have, we need to look at want vs. need. We NEED technology specialists at each school. Thank you, Resident of Centreville, VA

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
222	Schools	I think if cuts have to be made, school can cut instructional coaches, teachers who are not in the classroom. Also, how about an early retirement program to encourage employees close to retirement to retire now? Especially for teachers, who are paid based on seniority, that could save a lot of money while not laying people off.
223	Schools	Regarding the proposal to reduce School Based Technology Specialist in the FY2011 Budget, I wanted to provide feedback that this is an area that should not be considered for reduction. Technology is a vital part of education for our children's lives. We need to have the right resources to keep students, teachers, and staff at our school's current in the area of technology. There are other programs at the elementary level that should be considered for reduction ahead of Technology specialists at each school. As a parent of elementary and preschool age children, I do not want to see technology cut. Thank you, Resident of Annandale, VA
224	Schools	I have heard something about possibly cutting the SBTS positions at FCPS. I'm not sure I really believe it as I think this would be a huge step backwards for our schools. Isn't this an essential position at every grade level? Who would complete their responsibilities? I'm sure that the principals are able to give input as to whether they feel that this is a position they could manage effectively without. I would not guess that they would advocate for cutting this position. Our schools and teachers benefit from having the technology support right in the schools, why would it be a smart move to decrease technology support? SBTS should remain at FCPS schools.
225	Schools	I heard on the news that cutting foreign languages is being considered to make up for the budget deficit. Foreign languages are needed for college. The schools should look at trimming down the non-essential courses, such as film studies, home economics, shop, etc., before cutting essential classes. Art and music should also be last on the chopping block.
226	Schools	I understand that the SBTS positions are in danger of being eliminated. As a 6th grade teacher, a large part of our job is to get our students ready for the world and to do that they need to be more savvy than we are in the use of technology. At our school we have SMARTBoards, computers, Senteo's, Global Awareness initiatives, etc. and we are not only expected to teach the curriculum but to teach it in a way that includes technology at every step. I depend on our school based technology specialist to provide training for me and my students. Without her as a resource, our ability to formulate and integrate technology will be hampered. I respectfully ask that every consideration be given to keeping technology specialists in our schools. Thank you,

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
227	Schools	I am writing in response to the projected budget cut for the foreign language in elementary schools. This is an area of the budget that should NOT be cut. Although this is an area that not everyone chooses to enroll their children, we currently have two children in the JI program at Fox Mill. I purposely put my children in this program because of the fact that having exposure and knowledge of a second foreign language will benefit them in their studies. It helps with the growth of their brains and has only proven to show a higher level of learning for children. There are some children who don't make it into the GT programs of the county, but who have the aptitude and drive to achieve in other areas (in this case, foreign languages). I think it would be a great detriment to the school system if this area were cut out. An article was recently published in a northern California newspaper which documented the benefits of their area starting a Chinese foreign language immersion program over 20 years ago. It
228	Schools	I wonder about cutting the G-T program -- Honestly the truly truly exceptionally gifted, like doing algebra in 3rd grade -- there aren't that many. Most kids would do fine in their base school with a teacher willing to be creative in expanding assignments. It would raise the bar for all kids. Cutting way back on G-T would save bus money, cut some teachers, etc. What I am trying to also say -- regular kids should not always be the ones to "suffer" with larger classrooms, etc. It just seems like high-end or low-end, "special needs" takes too much away from "regular kids". I do think parents could pay the fees for A-P tests, etc. All kindergarten is a bit of a frill, although much needed for most families since most families have 2 working parents. Good luck with this, honestly I think taxes could be raised a bit (does FFX cty get the money if the taxes are raised or does Richmond?).
229	Schools	I'm writing to urge you NOT to cut immersion programs from Fairfax County Public Schools. My daughter just started the Japanese immersion program at Fox Mill this year. For her, this is a vital component of her learning experience and, as she is quite advanced for her age, needs the challenge of this unique program. It is a proven fact that children are much better at learning a second language at an early age. In this era of internationalism and global expansion, knowledge of more than one language is essential and will only further one's ability to be part of that global landscape. I understand the issues of the modern day county budget. Having worked in the political arena at all levels my entire life; there are always cuts and choices that need to be made. However, in an effort to grow Fairfax County (i.e. more tax revenue) it is important to look at what a young family can expect in an educational system. The immersion and magnet programs are a key factor in decision making for families looking to

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
230	Schools	I am writing in support of the elementary school foreign language Immersion programs. These programs have a 20-year track record of providing exceptional language education to children when their brains are pliable and most able to acquire native-proficiency language skills. In a global world, the U.S. needs citizens who are able to communicate in other languages. This program is a model program and has had excellent results. Cutting it now after the extensive work of building infrastructure and finding highly qualified teachers is short-sighted, even in the midst of a need for cuts. I would even be in favor of finding a way to ask families in this program to bear some of the additional costs through student fees rather than dismantling it and losing a valuable program. As a parent of two children in this remarkable program, I have seen in only a few short years the acquisition of language and speaking skills that will serve my children for their entire lives. Learning a new language also gives the brain a neural network adapted for learning other languages and skills more easily. I appreciate the difficult of this process and strongly recommend not eliminating the Immersion programs from Fairfax county's excellent education system.
231	County and Schools	As a Fairfax County resident, Virginia State Boards of Education representative, and father of two , I am surprised and disappointed to hear that Fairfax County Schools is contemplating cutting all School-Based Technology Specialist positions. This is the time when children should be learning about different technologies and have technology incorporated into their curriculum. The County should be using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to ensure its children are using technology to achieve their full academic potential. Thank you for your cooperation.
232	Schools	In looking at the proposed budget cuts, I am trying to understand how cutting out Language Immersion is going to save significant money. At Fox Mill, there are 12 JI teachers for around 230-250 students. Eliminating the Japanese Immersion program would cut only one teacher position while I feel that there are other areas which could be cut with less impact to a greater part of the school. Immersion makes our school system more diverse and brings people to the county who want that experience for their children. I would propose instead cutting one special ed teacher, which has 13-15 teachers for a much smaller number of students. In addition, I would propose that you look at cutting one of the music teachers (we have 2 music teachers plus strings and band teachers) as our children do not need music twice per week. I would also look at strings and band as a fee for service and not core to the curriculum. Thank you for your time.
233	Schools	I just found out about possible elimination of ES Foreign Language Program. I really want this program to be continued. It is very important that kids to start learning Foreign Language from young age. This is the most effective way to learn languages. I know this because I'm a Mother of 2 bilingual kids. <b>DON'T DO THIS PLEASE!!</b>
234	Schools	Schools won't be serious until they: 1. reduce number of Superintendents - Cluster or otherwise 2. stop subsidizing optional testing like AP, IB and PSAT and charge a fee 3. Consider elimination of seven period day and offering "electives" through adult ed. after school for a fee It's time the "game" ends, the elementary only reductions end and the school based cuts end. Close Gatehouse and folks will get serious.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
235	Schools	I would like the county to charge families who are participating in Kindergarten. I also would like the county to charge students for testing fees such as AP. I have no problem with increase class size at the upper grade levels such as high school but not at the lower grade levels. And also would like to see the libraries retained and staffed per county and state regulations. Reading and safe use of the internet is crucial for our students and needs to be taught at a early age. The Librarians do this job very well. I am very happy with FCPS and moved here because of the schools in this area. I am willing to pay my way without services being cut for my own children.
236	Schools	For staff to have Blackberries amidst a budget crisis is a luxurious excess that we taxpayers cannot afford! If you want to keep schools safe, you may continue relying on walkie-talkies. This is an absurd budget item requiring no mental effort to decide its elimination. Besides, Citizen Bands are still free and open!
237	Schools	Close all schools during summer months (July and August). Reduce principal contracts to 11 months. Other school districts do it and it works very well.
238	Schools	One of the aspects of Fairfax County Schools I admire most is quality and diserfication of the education my children can receive in public schools. This year marks the first my kids are old enough to attend public school in the county and I am most disheartened to understand the arts program may be diminished or even cut. I fear many students who thrive on that aspect of their education will 'check out' early on...hate school, try less, attend less. While I would not like to see the language programs cut (my child is in Immersion) I'd rather lose Immersion knowing the child has opportunities later in school to take language if that would mean saving the arts programs for all.
239		The current administration claims to have a belief in the importance of early education. Getting children off to a great start. By eliminating immersion programs the county is eliminating the possibilities of our children having every advantage that so many other children outside of the US have. Even children in war-torn and third world countries manage to learn a language other than their native tongue. You can never go back to childhood and re-create the early learning experience. Why should cuts be taking place at the grade school level? Why at any level? Fairfax County is one of the wealthiest counties in the country with extremely high property taxes. I think an examiner/auditor should be brought in to see why we can't seem to make ends meet every single year. Instead of funding homeowners with an allowance for insulating their homes place those funds in the hands of schools and teachers. Homeowners should take their own responsibility unto themselves-- not rely on a government hand out. Don'

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
240	County and Schools	First of all, don't raise any taxes. I've been in Fairfax County since 1996 and seen the real estate taxes balloon over this time. Secondly, get back to the basics - education, law enforcement, transportation. And in those programs, focus on getting the basics done right first. Worry about the fringe elements last. We have to learn that we can't be everything to everybody in today's fiscal environment. It may be tough for people to swallow, but it's a message that needs to be told. That message along with no new taxes will satisfy most. Plus it'll keep people from migrating to Fairfax County (from bordering counties) just for the fringe benefits that the rest of us fund through our taxes. This is the best opportunity in the last 20 years to get it right. Take advantage of it...
241	County	Fairfax County is down to "bare bones" on it's budget and needs to increase revenue by increasing real estate tax rate and fees for using services. I do not agree with Mr. Griffin that Parks and Libraries are discretionary. Asking these two agencies to submit a proposal for a 15% cut in FY11 is not the right thing to do.
242	Schools	I think the immersion programs in the schools are some of the most fabulous programs the schools are offering at this point. My family would be devastated to see this program removed from the school. My children continue to amaze me on a daily basis with what they are learning and how quickly they are picking up a second language. I have also noticed it having a good impact on their other studies as well. Please save the immersion programs!!
243		Let there be no 12 month contracts at all! Place administrators on 11 months - principals, resource specialists, technology specialists, administrative assistants and anybody else working 12 months. Fire all clinical coordinators, managers, and senior social workers and psychologists. Most of them should be eligible for retirement anyway. Close school buildings during the months of July and August.
244	Schools	Let there be no 12 month contracts at all! Place administrators on 11 months - principals, resource specialists, technology specialists, administrative assistants and anybody else working 12 months. Fire all clinical coordinators, managers, and senior social workers and psychologists. Most of them should be eligible for retirement anyway. Close school buildings during the months of July and August.
245	County and Schools	I am appalled that Fairfax still funds ESL programs due to "county policy", but they want to change "county policy" to increase classroom size. I think those who need ESL classes should pay for them, just as I had to pay for tutoring for my child for reading. I think those who are not US citizens and who are here illegally should not receive county/gov't jobs, or receive free healthcare and emergency room visits, or benefit from any other gov't subsidized program. I think if you cut out services to illegal aliens, the county would have more revenue. I don't think tax-paying citizens should pay for standard school services, like band and athletic programs, while illegal aliens have benefits without paying taxes and working for cash only.
246	Schools	It is a shame that we tax payers are funding private TAXIS for the transportation of students to and from Kilmer Center all across the county! There must be a cheaper solution, such as buying a mini van and hiring one driver per pyramid for the transportation of these students. Please revisit this item in the budget!

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Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
247	Schools	Please DO NOT CUT the LANGUAGE IMMERSION CLASSES in our schools.
248	County and Schools	I understand that there must be some cuts this year, but the county should be giving more funding to the schools and cutting costs in other ways. As the parent of a Spanish immersion program student I think that it would be a terrible mistake to cut this specific program (I would much rather that my children not have art or music class for a couple of years - as it would be easy to transition to those programs once the economy is stabilized; than to lose the immersion program that cannot be restarted and/or restarted quickly in the event it is stopped).
249	Schools	I understand the school board is considering cutting the Japanese Immersion program at the elementary level. As a former educator in a Japanese Immersion school, I can personally testify to the benefit of the program. Children learn skills in this program that enhance their learning for life. It hardly seems worth the 1% of the budget it would save to cut a program that is so beneficial to so many students. Please do not cut the Japanese Immersion Program.
250	Schools	To whom it may concern Both my sons attend Orange Hunt Elementary School, German Immersion. I have had a passion for foreign languages all my life and strongly feel that they should stay a part of the curriculum in American schools. In today's global community, I think that it is essential to speak more than one language, whether it is for your professional career or for personal communications. Having a workforce skilled in that area will, in the long run, also strengthen the United States' competitiveness in the global markets. I understand that the economic downturn will ask for budget cuts, but those cuts should, in my opinion, not affect any foreign language programs in the schools. Thank you for your consideration.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
251	Schools	<p>I am extremely concerned about the threat to strike foreign language instruction, specifically the immersion school programs, from the elementary schools in Fairfax County. We moved to Fairfax County over 2 years ago from out of state. We looked at Fairfax County, Loudon County, Arlington, Montgomery, and DC schools to help us chose where we would buy a house. What led us to choose Fairfax County was the language immersion program. The ability for elementary school students to learn a language from native speakers, in an immersion situation is something that is not available anywhere else. Even the private schools do not offer programs as fantastic as the language immersion programs. In a world that is becoming increasingly smaller, where our children will interact with people from all over the world, learning a second language at such an early age will give them an advantage for the remainder of their lives. Studies overwhelmingly show that children who learn two, three, and even four langauages have increased brain capacity, higher SAT scores, and a better grasp of their native language. It would be devastating to eliminate a program that draws families to Fairfax County and that sets the Fairfax County Elementary schools apart from its neighbors. In a time where it is imperative that schools embrace progressive learning, new theories, and advances, elimination of the language immersion programs would set the county schools back, making them more antiquated, less competitive, and certainly less desireable. I know, at least for us, it would cause us to reexamine our decision to move to Fairfax County and we would perhaps move to a place where we thought the education our children received was more in line with what it should be in the 21st century.</p>
252	Schools	<p>The language immersion programs offered in FCPS are outstanding. I have sent 2 through immersion and have 2 more currently attending an immersion school. When offered GT placement in our local school, we remained in immersion. Why? Because my wife and I are not bilingual. We could never give our kids this opportunity.</p>
253	Schools	<p>Full day Kindergarten is an asset to the county. Cutting this would be taking a huge step backwards! We should be working toward getting full day K to more schools not cutting the schools that offer it!</p>



## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
254	Schools	I realize that the FY2010-2011 FCPS budget looks rather grim and dismal; but as you consider where to make cut-backs and which programs to eliminate, I would like to advocate for the FLES program. I understand that FLES might be a target program to remove from FCPS budget, but I would highly urge you to reconsider. FLES is an amazing program that has greatly influenced my son's (in second grader) language abilities. In just 2 years his pronunciation, grammar and understanding of Spanish has improved in leaps and bounds. I am thrilled that my son is now comfortable in speaking Spanish and he'll translate English words into Spanish for me. My hope is that through FLES my child will acquire a second language and perhaps make an impact on a global level and/or be competitive on a global level. It still amazes me that as an American, a US citizen, our children are NOT being encouraged nor given the opportunity to learn a second language on a consistent basis. If not for FLES there would be NO opportunities for my child to acquire a second language. In a county that is admired and used as a model for other public education systems, FCPS needs to work very hard to keep FLES (which accounts for only 2 million dollars of the budget) in the budget for the next school year. It should be a program that is protected as it builds up the school system and builds up the learning proficiencies of our children. Thank you so much for taking the time to read my comments.
255	Schools	On full day kindergarten, I would like to suggest this be kept in our public schools. My daughter benefited from the additional time for learning and working on her social skills during the full day kindergarten at Bull Run Elem. My son will be starting kindergarten in Fall 2010 and I would him to have the same opportunity to grow and learn in kindergarten by attending full days.
256	Schools	Eliminating high school career center specialists is a bad idea. Most careers centers include a vast parent volunteer effort supervised by the center specialists. This volunteer work force is not readily seen in budgets and allows the career centers to reach more students and parents with high quality counseling and support for the bargain price of a single school specialist. Volunteers are FREE but can only be effective if properly supervised. The career center employs nearly 30 FREE part-time volunteers each school year, relieving paid guidance staff of the more mundane burdens that take these professionals away from serving students. This volunteer effort is about equal to that of the paid guidance staff. If the career center specialists were to be removed and all their duties placed on the guidance counselors, the quality of guidance would deteriorate as if the guidance staff itself had been cut in half. It would be unthinkable to cut guidance staff by 50% but that is effectively what you are doing by
257	County and Schools	As a taxpayer with 3 children in Spanish immersion, I strongly urge the Board to continue foreign language immersion (FLI) programs. The excellent education FLI students receive is critical for our students to be effective future international leaders. Immersion parents are extremely involved & committed to the success of their school, which helps ALL students. The non-FLI students benefit from improved academics & peer learning because of the diversity & achievement brought by FLI students. For 11 years, our family has willingly paid our high Fairfax County property taxes in order for our children to benefit from a Spanish immersion education. I ask the Board to please vote to keep elementary

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		foreign language immersion programs at FCPS.
258	Schools	Fairfax County is known for the quality of education provided in our schools. Please do not cut support for our schools or school enrichment programs. I will gladly pay a higher property tax to keep my local elementary school open and fully functioning for my child.
259	County and Schools	It is my understanding that the county is considering cutting the career specialist positions out of the 2011 budget. The career center's are a very valuable asset to the secondary schools. They provide very important information and one on one help for high schoolers, especially seniors who need help deciding which college to choose or what to do after high school. Lake Braddock's career specialist, Judy Edwards has been very valuable to me and my family. I know other families, including a girl that I mentored, who have benefitted from her help. Cutting the career specialist position would be a detriment to the students of Fairfax County.
260	Schools	I am a parent of a child in the Spanish Immersion Program at Lake Anne. My tax dollars pay for the schools and I want to keep the Immersion program and instead recommend the following cuts. 1) Reduce Elementary School Guidance Counselors by 100 percent. Savings: \$15.6M 2) Reduce HS/MS Guidance Counselors by 50 percent: Savings: \$15M. If you would like more recommendations please contact me.
261	Schools	Pay the classroom teachers for their time with bigger classes. It's not right to lose a step two years in a row during these hard times. Cut programs that are extra in schools, such as FLES and Immersion classes.
262	Schools	Please look at transportation cost for general programs and GT programs. I would prefer that the students have a longer ride to and from school than a substandard school experience to which they arrive swiftly. Also, please ensure that cuts are not "erased" at higher SES schools by parent fundraising. The multiple tiered system b/c some can pay should be avoided. Thank you.
263	Schools	The studies have shown the benefits of the full day kindergarten to the children's success in transitioning into the first grade. This early start on learning how to be a student is a great way to introduce children to the school processes. Please don't cut this important program.
264	County and Schools	PLEASE DO NOT REDUCE OUR BUDGET FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY LIBRARIES!!! WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES?????

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
265	Schools	The budget cut is massive. All of the proposed cuts I have seen so far seem reasonable in such a dire situation including cutting strings/orchestra, full day kindergarten and foreign languages in elementary school. These are, however, the "icing on the cake" that have made Fairfax County so attractive to business and families in the past and we should be aware of the long-term consequences of these budget cuts. It is a shame none of our elected officials are willing to step up and voice the hard reality - that even in these tough financial times, there are citizens in our county who can afford to pay higher taxes; taxes that would pay for the services we need and want.
266	Schools	As the parent of 2 students in the Fairfax County School System, I am asking that the Language Immersion program not be cut. Specifically the Spanish Immersion program at Lake Anne Elementary School. In the grand scheme this is not an expensive program to run and it is immeasurably valuable to my child's education. Additionally, Lake Anne Elementary is not a large school and cutting the Immersion program would send a large portion of the students and a majority of the parents who volunteer and fundraise for LAES back to their base schools, causing this school even further hardship. I can not express how important Lake Anne Elementary School and it's Spanish immersion program has been to my children's education. Please do not cut the funding for this program.
267	Schools	To whom it may concern, Please do not cut the full day kindergarten program. Our children need the full day to be competitive with students in private schools and other counties. Thank you, Emily Burrell
268	Schools	cut back fcps buildings from 3 to 1 -- save money in administration, and spend it on our children's education (if you please)
269	Schools	Foreign language programs for elementary schools are critically important for our students. Not only do they help students gain valuable skills that make them more competitive, they also help improve cultural understanding and knowledge, which is critical in this multicultural region. Giving our kids greater understanding of other cultures broadens their perspective in all aspects of life. Ultimately, these programs equip students to work with diverse populations, understand the values, traditions and societal norms of many ethnic groups, and facilitators of integration in our community. Elementary school is an ideal time for children to beginning learning foreign languages and cultures, as they are still developing pronunciation and basic language skills and so, it is easier for them to grasp additional languages at this time. Also, scientific studies have shown that children who grow up bilingual have significantly higher IQ scores, compared to monolingual children, with increased aptitudes in math, science and creative thought processes, among other areas. PLEASE continue to offer foreign language programs in elementary schools in the coming years, so that FCPS students and the community at large, can continue to reap the benefits of these important programs. Thank you.
270	Schools	I am completely opposed to eliminating the elementary band and string programs in Fairfax County Public Schools. As a former music teacher in Arlington (ten years teaching) I chose Fairfax County as my home because I wanted my children to be raised in a community that valued the arts and gave early opportunities for arts exploration. This is a vital piece of child-development and should not be eliminated without exhausting all other possibilities.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
271	Schools	Two criteria should be paramount in determining the cuts to the 2011 budget: immediate results and enduring effectiveness. Cutting career center specialists in our high schools fails on both counts. There are few positions where a single individual gets direct, immediate results that conform with the school system's mission of student success. Student success is not merely "graduation", it's getting the job after graduation, it's getting the apprenticeship, it's attending the next school that the student wants in order to be productive. The career center specialist, one person covering more than 600 graduating seniors, can find them employment, get them into college or other post -secondary education program. These specialists have built relationships with schools and employers, their calls get returned, their judgments and recommendations get accepted. More than the hundreds of guidance counselors, these few specialists can get results that four years of preparation sometimes cannot. They can bridge that
272	Schools	I believe that the school system is in need of significant structural reforms. I agree wholeheartedly with Supervisor Herrity's suggestions in his op-ed earlier this year. Most teachers in the County that I have spoken with concur as well. The Fairfax County Public School system has an overwhelming number of administrators and a shortage of teachers. The number of Assistant Superintendents and their salaries are a prime example of this superfluous overhead cost to the taxpayer.
273	County	1. when office printers are replaced, require that they have a duplex printing capability to save money on paper. 2. email DROP statements to save on postage.
274	County	Eliminate the overnight counselor positions and utilize relief counselors to provide coverage. As a result the county would save money on benefits and salaries.
275	County and Schools	Can we consolidate both the County's Library and FCPS' Library operations into one entity, and get some economies of scale and cost savings? Other jurisdictions do this.
276	County	Can Community and Recreation Services, and the Park Authority, be consolidated to help achieve some operational efficiencies and cost savings?
277	County	It is not fair to continually have the workers "carry the budget on our backs". When Pay for Performance was first begun, we were assured this would not happen. It is very hard to evaluate a worker under Pay for Performance when the evaluation does not correspond to a pay raise.
278	County	We should look at making people retire who are eligible or induce them to retire with buyouts. That way we may be able to keep younger (IMHO) cheaper employees.
<b>Added October 26, 2009</b>		
279	Schools	I am concerned about expanding the size of classes and stopping salary increases for teachers. This will harm our community. Lowering the standards of our schools will actually bring in less revenue, for this will actually reduce home values. People will no longer want to live here if the schools are poor (bringing in less taxes).

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
280	Schools	For FCPS- I heard there was a proposal to eliminate elementary school strings and band. For a savings of 4% of the projected shortfall this is a very short sighted approach. I could write 100 pages about how important music is to overall education and mental development, student personal habits of discipline; overall grade improvement; better habits in MS and HS; not to mention the absolutely unparalleled reputation of FCPS' music departments being at stake if kids don't have a chance to start early in music. How many free and reduced lunch kids start music in elementary school that simply won't even try if they have to wait until 7th grade? How will MS and HS school music programs suffer? It boggles the mind. A better budget cut that won't have a long term impact and that can be restored later when budgets improve is behind the wheel for HS. Most kids who will actually have access to a car in HS have parents who can afford to pay for it privately. Let's take a look at those numbers- NOT at elementary school ban
281	Schools	Please keep modified calendar in elementary schools! It makes such a difference for these students, who don't have the opportunity for enrichment, remediation and summer camps that other students might. In addition, the shortened summer is necessary for our ESOL students who won't speak any English at home for several weeks or months over the summer vacation. They lose so much less language ability with a shortened summer. Please keep modified calendar!!
282	Schools	I realize that it is a difficult situation to resolve but top priority should be to continue to provide a solid education for our children. Forgoing foreign language classes in order to keep class sizes at the current level would have the least impact on our kids education.
283	County and Schools	Please consider getting rid of buses before getting rid of Arts and Language in the elementary schools. If you think about it, all of the kids who have working parents are able to use the after care program transportation. Any kids who take the bus home are kids with stay at home parents or caregivers at a home who could be picking up the child instead. The current bus system doesn't work for many children anyways because if they used it they would be on the bus for 1 hour when I could drive them in 10 minutes! In the elementary schools, I would think that technology/computers could be retired as well as the blackboard site. Young children do not need these high tech tools. You could also increase the cost of lunch in order to obtain more income. You could also charge more for the after school programs and the summer programs. I agree that summer school is not necessary. Please consider cutting these services before cutting foreign language and the arts. I believe these enrichment activities are

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
284	County and Schools	\$2 million dollar savings from removing foreign language instruction from elementary schools does not seem like a good choice for a budget cut. So many families and teachers have made a huge commitment to the immersion programs. They drive their kids to a school in another boundary for 6-7 years just so that the kids can have the benefits of language immersion. The teachers are passionate about this program at Lake Anne Elementary school and it shows in the quality of their instruction. Please don't cut this gem in FCPS for a \$2 million dollar savings. At Lake Anne it seems like the half the students in the school are from outside the Lake Anne boundary for the Spanish Immersion program. I would prefer that you cut other programs such as buses, rolling back full day kindergarten (these kids are too young for full day anyways), reducing the "extra teachers", eliminating summer schools, and increasing class sizes. Please leave the language and arts programs in the school.
285	County	The county work force contains many managers in relation to the number of employees. Since the managers are also working managers, especially in the library system, the number of managers should be reduced and replaced with merit employees, perhaps some part time. This would save money in salaries and other employee benefits, such as retirement and health care.
286	Schools	Did you just get my suggestions about the transportation and buses in the school? It disappeared from my screen as I was finishing and I'm not sure if it was sent. Thanks.
287	Schools	Gentlemen/Ladies; I address you as a parent of three FCPS students regarding the upcoming budget cuts for the 2011 year. Please note my three children attend Laurel Ridge Elementary, they are enrolled in the Spanish Immersion program. all three are following the footsteps of their older cousins who also successfully completed the Spanish Immersion Program. As a long time resident (Robinson '75) of Fairfax county and graduate of FCPS, I find it extremely disturbing that you are considering cutting the Immersion Programs from the FCPS curriculum. These programs have been around for a long time, and their success is well noted in allowing all Fairfax County residents a better understanding of other countries. I honestly believe there are other areas which can be more easily adjusted than the Immersion programs, Cutting out immersion programs do not appear to be a efficient way to cut costs. WE would welcome the opportunity to further discuss his issue, unfortunately the time periods you allow
288	County	I believe that if teacher salaries are to stay flat, teachers should also be granted a much later date than June 1st to be required to choose to resign or have the non-negotiated and flat salaried contract re-establish for the next year. June 1st is an unfair , anti-competitive deadline to resign. It does not allow teachers time to consider if other, better paying options might arise for them in this tight job market but locks them into never being able to look around for a new position.
289	Schools	We should eliminate time wasters in our school day, such as "Grace Art"

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
290	County and Schools	Raise property taxes instead of cutting school programs. Charge more for optional activities such as band/orchestra/sports. Do not cut the programs that make FFX successful and unique. Foreign language education is critical in this increasingly global economy. Cut out bus transportation to optional programs and schools. Increase the costs of field trips and lunch. Allow PTAs and schools to 'pre-fund' programs at their schools for the coming years if there is no county budget allocation. Do not penalize the whole for the unwillingness or laziness of a few. Get rid of ineffective administrators. Have more oversight of principals who abuse their position and bully their great teachers and staff. Take out the trash. Don't let principals buy smartboards for teachers who can't and don't use them. TOTAL WASTE! Have some accountability. DO NOT CUT FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION.
291	Schools	close the schools down on weekends this will save on heat and the AC and the use of lights
292	Schools	I recently learned from my spouse who is a new school bus driver for the county two items that disturbed me, if they are accurate: 1. some school buses (if not all or many) have radios and speakers in them for students to listen to music 2. many daily newspapers are dropped off at schools for use in the teachers' lounge. If either or both of these items are true, they may be an expense that the County does NOT need to bear.
293	County	I learned 2+ years ago that Kaiser Permanente provides coverage to dependents up to age 23 REGARDLESS of whether they are in college or not. I was told by Kaiser Member Services that each organization or entity has the option of enforcing this or not. I was told by the County HR department that they were keeping the age 18 limit unless the dependent was in college. FCPS does not do this. Good for them and shame on the General County for not providing this benefit to general county employees. This is extremely unfair and discriminatory to general county employees. Please please look into this. With frozen salaries, no money for P4P, furloughs, etc. - one would think that our own HR department would be a little more flexible and realistic. I am absolutely astounded.
295	Schools	I think budget cuts should not include the removal of full day kindergarten. half day is a waste of time and I believe the children learn less. I am the parent of a child who went to half day kindergarten and would hate to see the full day program removed.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
296	Schools	I strongly feel that the FLES program should be kept in our schools. PERSONAL REASONS: I send both my daughters to the Japanese Immersion program at Fox Mill ES. We make the effort to car pool and drive our kids to this school. They left good friends and teachers at Lees Corner ES because we believe in the extraordinary opportunity to have our children expand their minds and world view and learn another language and culture. This program and the quality of Fairfax County schools are a large part we moved here and are staying here. It's why we bought our house here and were willing to pay the premium to live here. Perhaps not everyone sees it this way, but to me, the FLES program is an emblem of the quality of Fairfax County Schools. It's a signal to parents--"these schools are as good or better than any private school". ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REASONS: Good schools draw economic development - ultimately a well-educated workforce demands an excellent school system. That's a big reason companies decide
297	Schools	I am writing to share my displeasure at discontinuing the full-day kindergarten within schools in Fairfax County. Currently, my daughter attends one of the full-day schools and I have to say it is truly a cost savings to my family. If you discontinued the program, countless families would have to pay for extended daycare in an economic time when they really need to work, save money, and just survive. I think that FFX should consider the savings loss when families will have to apply for financial assistance because both parents cannot work or need help paying for childcare. Please do not consider taking more children out of school. Cuts can come from focus schools where kids would continue to stay in school. I will have another child eligible for this program in three years. There's no assurances that once the budget shortfall is met, the program will be brought back after so many fought to get the program in the first place. Save Full day Kindergarten.
298	County and Schools	While there is no denying the terrible budget situation facing the county, it is shocking that the county would consider cutting a cost-effective enriching program like the partial-immersion language programs. As a homeowner and the parent of a child about to enter the school system, one of the facets that most attracted me to the county was the existence of the partial immersion programs. Little added teaching cost is incurred by the county for the program, as students are in the same sized (if not larger in the case of some schools) class as students who are not in immersion. And they are learning the same math, science, and health curriculum. In short, I find little validity in any argument that there would be meaningful cost savings to the county from eliminating the immersion program. There would be a great cost to student in the loss of an incredibly enriching educational opportunity.
299	County and Schools	Please do not eliminate the Elementary Schools Foreign Language Immersion programs. These programs give our young children a head start on speaking a second and sometimes third language. This is a valuable asset to have for the future leaders of our country, especially as the world becomes a smaller place every day.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
300	County	Libraries. It seems that in these tight economic times people are turning even more to the library system for the information it makes available in a variety of forms. The 15% cuts last FY were difficult, but cutting another 15-18% this year would be almost devastating. The community depends on this resource, and shows its support by a continual flow of donations of used books and CDs and DVDs which the library can use or sell. Please be VERY thoughtful about how to make any further budget cuts, as the library is already struggling to meet the community needs after last year's reductions. Thank you.
301	Schools	PLEASE...PLEASE...PLEASE do not cut out the immersion programs. French immersion shaped my life, made me the well adjusted and culturally embracing person that I am today and has opened an expanse of opportunities that never would have come about without it. As you know, language immersion programs take place during the time when a child's brain is most receptive and soaks the information up like a sponge. It comes so much easier later in life than if you tried to learn a new language as an adult. I still use my French to communicate and it was a big help when it came to learning Spanish in college and understanding the lingo in my chosen field of cooking. There are so many benefits to this program that you may not see immediately but, over time, I guarantee that it has affected those who have participated long term in a positive way. Mandatory language classes in high school are next to useless without a background of previous language learning. Most kids just push their way through the class
302	Schools	Please do not cut the music programs!
303	Schools	Please do not cut elementary band programs.
304	Schools	Please continue to make your cuts progressive trying as best possible to hold harmless services for poor elderly, poor disabled, poor youth and health recipients. Elementary school bands have been important to our the exceptional ranking of our public schools. Please don't cut these programs, if necessary, create scaled fees for service.
305	Schools	There should be no cuts to music programs at schools. Music is essential for the development and well being of our children.
306	Schools	One of the things that make FF Co. schools so good is the incredible music program. People - like us switch from private to public school in large part because of the music program. This is too important - do not reduce our budget-!!
307	Schools	Please, do not cut the band and music programs at our elementary and middle schools. The depth of experience these classes and performance opportunities offer our children can not be matched in any other way.
308	County and Schools	We heard that the county is thinking of cutting all Elementary band and orchestra. This is such a terrible thing to happen if ever. It is in the younger years when love for music and the arts are developed and if the kids with those talents and potentials are not given the opportunities in the elementary years, then our county will suffer from such an imbalance of expertise in the long run. Please consider not passing this budget cut. Thank you.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
309	County and Schools	Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars now, but the total negative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. Starting music at a young age is so important. This is one aspect of the FCPS that makes it stand above many other schools in the Nation. Playing music not only enriches a student culturally and in the arts but it increase their academic achievements and discipline. For some students this is their only means to express themselves. I know Fairfax County is facing tough financial times but don't sacrifice the quality of the schools the county has spent decades building. Instead spend money addressing the over population of single family/multi-family homes which would eliminate the over population of schools.
310	Schools	Do NOT cut Elementary Band and Orchestra. The short range savings to the budget will cause a long range deficit in the quality of Fairfax County Schools' Quality. One of the best districts in the nation can't afford to cut the music program in elementary school.
311	Schools	Please Do Not CUT ALL Elementary band and orchestra. Thank you.
312	Schools	IT is very unfortunate to hear that FF county schools are faced with such a problem. Our schools were always rated one of the best schools and should stay the same, cutting budget from them is not the best solution, including cutting the few dollars giving to musical classes. My kids are now high schools students and never wanted to give up the viola and cello for any other classes. Lets not try to correct a problem by giving birth to a more stressful one to be carried on by our children our next generation. Not cut and no crowded classes is a most. Take example of DC schools and where they are now with their irresponsible thinking. We need to keep all curriculum and activities open, keep our qualified teachers stand with our kids for a better generation. Thank you for your consideration
313	Schools	The music program should not be cut from the elementary schools. In fact, it should not be cut from any school at any level. Music is too important for the children and cutting it will have a huge negative impact on the kids. saving money should not be done on the account of the children's future.
314	Schools	Music and Arts are a necessary must in a child's education. It is a key to making them well rounded individuals. Cut something else, Get rid of some administrators positions, or cut back on the top end salaries. When you look at what you will be saving it is not worth the experience that a young child can experience. My son started playing violin at 5, he could not wait to get to 4th grade to begin playing with the orchestra. Granted he was far beyond them, but then he showed others how to hold and play the instrument. His face lit up the first time he played for a group, blocking everything and everyone out as he concentrated on the music of the moment. For some, this might be their only time in performing, for others it might be opening a door that they did not know existed. Sincerely, Sarah Shannon
315	Schools	Please consider that music and sports may be more important to kids and have a longer impact than "smartboards."

***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments  
Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
316	Schools	Please do not cut back Fairfax County - Glasgow Middle School - music programs and instructional aspects including orchestra. This is the ONLY way many children (especially many underprivileged children) may obtain access to such high quality fare. Please do not cut these programs in any way.
317	Schools	I can not believe that you are thinking of taking Elementary band and orchestra out of the schools. Music teaches kids not only how to play an instrument, but also how to work with others, increases the ability to do math, and by starting at that young age, it allows students to progress to the high level of ability that is found in the High Schools. Trying to save money by neglecting our children's education is a bad idea. The arts are very important to all of our well being.
318	Schools	I recently read in a press release the possibility of eliminating foreign language studies and more importantly music from Elementary schools. This is not only a disappointment but a sad reflection on where you are attempting to steer the great FCPS system. Music brings people together and teaches children to work together and lays a foundation for so many important elements that will help later in life, as a parent with one child in FCPS and another one heading there soon, I ask that you do NOT eliminate any music program in the schools.
319	County and Schools	To ease the burden on homeowners, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a "school tax" which is billed to each resident and the funds go directly to schools. This removed the entire burden from homeowners because even renters will be obligated to pay this tax. PA was able to keep it nominal at approximately \$10 per resident and all seemed willing to pay the tax. This will spread the burden out so that all of the renters using our school system will also be paying a share for once.
320	Schools	The loss to our children and the community would far outweigh the monetary savings of cutting band and strings instruction from the elementary curriculum. Please don't do it.
321	Schools	Please Please consider not cutting ALL Elementary band and orchestra budget. Indeed music is very important and it will affect the kids future. Thanks! concerned parent from Parklawn Elementary School Alexandria
322	Schools	Please do not cut funding for elementary band and orchestra. I have three children in FCPS and all have benefited tremendously from starting music education early.
323	Schools	It would be a huge mistake to cut elementary band and orchestra programs for a small savings in the budget. The music-academic benefit to the children has been proven and is well known, both in their math aptitude and in their organizational skills. In addition, music education and performance beginning in elementary school helps students develop confidence in themselves, plus helps them develop their music intelligence.
324	County	We need our children's learning music, at younger age, not in the high school.....they must be learn in the elementary schools.....

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
325	Schools	Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars now, but the total negative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. Starting music at a young age is so important. Please keep this in consideration Fairfax county has always been exceptional lets keep it that way. and remember the kids are the future of our area.
326	Schools	I am writing to plead that you not eliminate the language immersion programs from the school systems. My son is currently in the JIP at Great Falls Elementary. The program itself represents a unique cultural experience and provides a foundation for the development of language skills in the future. In addition, we have been very impressed with the teachers individually as well. In fact, we have twin daughters who are currently in preschool and will be entering Kindergarten next year. It is specifically because of the JIP program that we are planning to enroll them at GFES next year with the intension of enrolling them in the JIP program as well when they enter first grade. This is a special and unique program that even private schools in the area do not offer.
327	Schools	I feel that fine arts should definitely be taken care of and appreciated, particularly elementary band programs. I know that when I joined band as a fifth grader it made all the difference in my life. I had moved to a new school and it gave me group of friends that I had through all of my school days. As an elementary band teacher I run in to my program "alumni" quite often and they tell me what an important part of their lives music and band became. Several of them told me it kept them going academically and made them strive to go to college and not just stop their educations with the ending of high school or dropping out of high school. Please keep the elementary instrumental music programs strong.
328	Schools	The last thing FC should be cutting is the education budget. Full day kindergarten and the foreign language programs at the elementary schools are important to our community. This will be remembered election day.
329	County and Schools	Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars now, but the total negative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. so please reconsider your decisions. thanks
330	Schools	Keep the music programs in elementary schools! I never had music lessons. I think it is so great that my kids are learning to read notes and play instruments in school. This is an enriching exposure for them!
331	Schools	Please keep the modified calendar in the selected elementary schools that already have this program. Parklawn has made great strides in testing scores through the modified calendar. This program only has benefits. The students, teachers and parents stand united in agreeing this is a favorable initiative. Really, why do kids need to be off from school for 12 weeks in the summer?!
332	Schools	Please do not eliminate the band, orchestra and FLEX programs at Fairfax County's elementary schools. Increasing class sizes seems like the best choice to be able to continue to provide the quality and diversity of educational opportunities to all of our community's students.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
333	Schools	Your time is valuable, so I will try and make my points succinctly. I am concerned about the proposed budget cut of elementary foreign language programs for the following reasons: I don't need the mountains of data to prove the benefit of foreign language immersion at the elementary level. I observe it in my home as my "Non GT" 7th grader who completed immersion (and who is currently in Japanese 1) helps my "GT Thomas Jefferson" 10th grader (who is in Japanese 2) with his homework. Year after year, the Immersion programs have a waitlist. Clearly they are wanted and needed by Fairfax County residents. At Great Falls Elementary we have spent six years developing a sister school relationship with a Japanese school in Hiroshima. This relationship has been aided by the former Prime Minister of Japan. I know many other language programs have developed similar relationships. These relationships will be destroyed. Language programs create wonderful media exposure.
334	Schools	I understand the county is interested in cutting music out of schools to try to save money but it is not to the best interest of the students. Music helps children be creative and allows them to express themselves in ways that some may not know how. If music has to be cut, propose bonds to keep music in the schools.
335	County and Schools	I wanted to share my concern about the fact that FC is cutting music programs in elementary schools to save money. There must be better ways to save money. Many studies have proven that music is not only important but also therapeutic for many children. Please, think hard and long before you cut the budget.
336	Schools	You cannot cut elementary band and orchestra is effects everyone in middle and high school band and its hurts everyone musically. At my school we are playing grade 6 music and if you cut elementary school band and orchestra then we would only be able to play 3 or 4 which hurts everyone. Everyone won't be as good as musicians as they are now and everyone loves band and orchestra don't be mean to little kids by destroying their fun of joining band or orchestra
337	County and Schools	Please don't cut music program of my children's school.. County can cut something else, Because Education is very important for Future of the Children, the same Future of America.
338	Schools	Do not cut music programs.
339	Schools	Do not cut band and orchestra from the elementary schools. Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars now, but the total negative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. Starting music at a young age is so important. We can't let the you cut music programs.
340	Schools	Please do not cut elementary school band and orchestra programs!
341	Schools	You should provide more info for HS and MS and a bit less for ES
342	Schools	Reduce school week to four days and increase school day length by two hours. This will result in savings on the cost of gas for the bus fleet, lower grocery bills for fewer lunches, and lower utility bills by having the school buildings closed four (sometimes five) extra days (nearly a week) every month. Almost a 25% cut in expenses across the board!

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
343	Schools	I believe that they should NOT cut band and orchestra programs at the elementary school level. Fairfax county is famous for their award-winning middle and high school band programs, but these groups would not be nearly as successful if they did not have elementary school-aged children feeding into the program. Therefore, the overall quality of these nationally-respected programs would decline.
344	Schools	The school music programs should be kept and not cut. Losing the programs now will permanently disadvantage an entire generation of kids. Music develops and improves math skills. Music is art and joy. We need to keep some fun in school. To save money stop using disposable math books and stop changing the text books every year. When I was growing up we always reused books and we never wrote in the work books - to save money. What Fairfax spends on unnecessary changes and disposable work books is sinful. Rewriting the question is a good way to study.
345	Schools	I think that cutting music from Schools for budget purposes is a big mistake. Our kids need this musical art to help them reach their personal fulfillment. Music can help them in developing their mind and imagination as it can help them escape the everyday stress they might encounter. I wish the County would reconsider his decision. Thank you
346	County	Keep elementary and middle school bands! They will not help the budget cut, they will just have a huge impact on the budget later on in the years that will put Fairfax County in more of a debacle than we are now. <b>SAVE THE MUSIC PROGRAMS!!</b>
347	Schools	Please, PLEASE, do NOT cut band and orchestra from the elementary or middle schools! If kids don't get the chance to start music at an early age, they may never experience the gift that music can bring. They may not realize that they have talent in that area if you never allow them the chance before it's too late. As a student in a Fairfax County band program, I know how important it was for me to experience music classes in fifth and sixth grade. If you don't give kids the opportunity to explore while they're young, they never will and as a result they will miss out on a lot of opportunities. The high school bands and orchestras will not be the high-quality music groups that we have now because the kids in the music programs will be mostly beginners. The few students who start music on their own will have to sacrifice the opportunity to play with a great band if all their peers are beginners. We take a lot of pride in our music program at my high school and I feel like all that enthusiasm would be lost

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
348	Schools	I am a full day Kindergarten teacher in FCPS and am very concerned about the proposed budget plan to eliminate all but Title 1 schools full-day Kindergarten programs. FCPS has put much effort and research into providing this much needed program to our county. FCPS is striving to "close the achievement gap" for all students. Cutting this valuable early education program will greatly impact the education of this age group. Full-day Kindergarten provides a strong academic foundation for these children that will benefit them for all of school. Kindergarteners are one of the youngest populations in the county and it seems unfair to target their educational program to balance a challenging budget year. Please carefully consider the academic and social needs of these five and six year old children when making decisions on budget cuts. Keep the cuts out of our classrooms and let our young residents in Fairfax County have the full day educational program that has proved to be what they need to succeed in education.
349	County and Schools	Cutting Music is not the way to go. As educators know, studying and practicing music develops parts of the brain that other types of education do not. Why not cut afterschool Intramural Sports or other afterschool programs along with the added busing costs involved when afterschool programs are done. I grew up in Fx Co schools and when I participated in afterschool programs and rode home on the bus, many times I was the only kid on the bus - an expensive ride for the county to pay for me, their only passenger. Another idea is to change lighting to motion detection light security systems around the school. How much does it cost county wide to have all those lights running all night? Does the cost county wide pay for itself in added security? Motion sensor lights use less energy.
350	Schools	We have twin daughters in 6th grade that are good students. Our household is not musically inclined, but the strings and band program at Belvedere ES has greatly enriched the lives of our children. They are now in band at Glasgow MS. One of our daughters still plays the violin at home even though she shifted over to clarinet in 5th and 6th grade band. If our daughters did not have strings and band in elementary school, then I doubt they would have chosen band as middle school because all of the other curriculums offered. We are very, very grateful to the strings and band programs at Belvedere. We feel our daughters lives have been much more enriched because of the strings and band programs in elementary school. Please consider not cutting the program from next year's budget.
351	Schools	I believe taking away full-day kindergarten is really making a huge mistake. My son is currently in all-day kindergarten this year and since school began a little over a month ago, he has made such amazing strides with his writing among many other things. It would be such a shame to see such a great public school system take such a backward step.

***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments  
Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
352	Schools	Cut administrative center positions that are not vital to classroom functioning. Coordinators of Psychology and Social Work Services, Managers of Psychologists and Social Workers, Senior Psychologists and Social Workers, and Psychologists and Social Workers with 12 month contracts are not cost effective measures for maintaining services in schools. School based psychology and social work services should remain with the existing ratio. NO MORE CUTS! Abolish mandatory in-services that require people to commute to training sites. This can be accomplished on line, saving transportation costs (fuel and mileage).
353	Schools	With cutbacks imminent for school building administrators and clinical administrators at central offices, there should be a new configuration of school management that supports school communities. One suggestion is the implementation of school based management teams consisting of principal, vice principal, psychologist, social worker, and counselor. Beginning in September 2010, a model program should be established at select schools on a trial basis with input from cluster superintendents.
354	County and Schools	The county SHOULD NOT cut the music program from elementary schools.
355	Schools	I have never heard the Jefferson High School mentioned in the budget cuts. We as tax payers are supporting a private prep school for a select few. The students at this school are self motivated. These students will do well in their neighborhood schools. The kids that truly need extra help are typically the target for budget cuts. Is this high school budget greater then the typical high per student cost? Would it not make sense to put these student back into their local schools? If the parents want a private school education for their children, allow them to pay for it as my parents did for my brothers, sister and me.
356	Schools	DO NOT CUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSIC. IT IS TOO IMPORTANT FOR OUR KIDS!!
357		The elimination of band and strings in the elementary schools is extremely short-sighted. The negative impact over many years will far outweigh any short term savings. Both my children started playing band instruments in the fifth grade. By the time they reached high school, they were both very proficient, and were very involved in the music department, playing in marching band and symphonic band. My son is considering a college education in the music field. Neither child would have had such expertise if they had been denied music at a young age. Studies have shown music education is highly beneficial to the development of the mind and expands the levels of thinking. Fairfax County is well-known by music educators nationwide for its excellent music department. Our music students are continually praised for their music skills. This is the result of years of music training, starting at a young age, by wonderful music teachers. Please do not cut band and strings from the elementary schools.



## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
358	County and Schools	I strongly feel that outside staff development training from consultants who charge a lot by the hour and for each day should be cut from the budget for every school and every county government position. We can't afford at this point to make sure that we are doing the best job possible, when we don't even have the money to pay people proper salaries, or even offer jobs to the best people in our county. In schools, outside consultants should not be hired for professional development purposes, and FCPS Academy programs should be reduced or suspended. As a result of this as well as lack of teacher pay raises for two years running, the teacher recertification point cycle should also be suspended, giving teachers a longer amount of time to complete professional development activities (waiting 3 years to restart the program). Teacher evaluations by administrators should continue, but this should be the only recertification process used in the county given the depth of the budget cuts required. Also, all funding for coaches should also be cut to reflect the same pay scale as drama and music coaches who spend similar amounts of time on the road and practicing with students on weeknights and weekends. There has been a pay disparity between these 2 groups for far too long. Ideally, drama teachers would be raised to the level of coach pay, but if necessary, coaches should be scaled back to that level of pay.
359	Schools	Starting at the top (Headquarters) are salaries being cut? Those that make in excess of \$80,000 +? Are monies being used for unnecessary construction, classes, "professional development"? Are big bonuses being given to the upper management? Check into this. You'll be surprised how monies can be saved!!
360	Schools	It is critical we continue our foreign language programs. It is the competitive advantage that keeps our children in the public school system.
361	Schools	I would like to see foreign language stay in the budget as part of a program for students.
362	County	The public libraries should open later in the day during the normal work week (a few days of the week). If the library were to open at 1:00 instead of 10:00, it could then stay open until 8 on Thursday (John Marshall closes at 6:00 on Thursdays).
363	Schools	We are a rich county, we've weathered the recession fairly well, and we can afford a small tax increase to close the budget on our schools. If we have to cut programs at our schools, it will destroy our reputation and only make Fairfax seem less attractive as a destination to move to in the D.C. region. Montgomery, P.G., Arlington, and Alexandria, all pay higher taxes, I think we can afford to pay some higher taxes to, as long as it's phased out over time when the economic situation rebounds.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
364	Schools	I do not agree with cutting full day kindergartner, nor do I agree with cutting the SBITS from schools. We can barely keep up with technology with a full time SBITS and a one day a week TSPEC. You will devastate the advancement of SmartBoard technology in the classroom and you will make the new 5th grade Global Awareness requirement impossible for teachers to complete. Full day Kindergarten is so beneficial to teaching the whole child. It not only gives the teacher the flexibility of scheduling lessons when the children are most benefitted by the instruction developmentally (for example - language arts in the morning when they are fresh) but it also allows the teacher to do more differentiated teaching because there is time during the day to do small groups and individual teaching. If you take away full day then we go back to whole group teaching and Kindergarten becomes preschool again.
365	County and Schools	Don't cut Japanese immersion program in any schools. This program an exceptional opportunity for our children to expand their international knowledge. An employment base with those having international flavor is something this county needs to maintain if the US is to remain competitive, now and into the future.
366	County and Schools	Sell all the marble in every Fairfax government building and put proceeds back to into the coffers.
367	County	In NJ, the Lower Township Rescue Squad, Inc. has a subscription fee for residents. Subscribers are entitled to 4 non-emergency transports to medical facilities within a certain area and unlimited emergency transportation to their large hospital in the area. The subscribers pay \$65 for the first member of the family and \$12 for each additional family member. If you are a non subscriber you will be charged somewhere between \$650-\$800 per call. Many insurances probably cover this expense but I'm not sure. And I don't know what they charge if you needed to call for a rescue squad but you didn't have to go to a hospital. Just an idea that might help raise revenues to support the fire and rescue services.
368	Schools	The county should support the school board in their transfer request. I've paid real estate taxes for 23 years and never had a school age child. However, I highly value our school system. I think this school system has an excellent reputation and they have kept my home values as high as can be.
369	Schools	The county should support the school board in their transfer request. I've paid real estate taxes for 23 years and never had a school age child. However, I highly value our school system. I think this school system has an excellent reputation and they have kept my home values as high as can be.
370	Schools	As a life-long resident of Fairfax County, I have determined that it is in the best interest of my children to remain in the best public school system in the country. What makes it the best is the availability of programs such as the language immersion programs in the elementary school here. My two daughters are both in or going to be in the Japanese Immersion programs at Great Falls Elementary. On a fiscal level, if you want to attract family that will ultimately increase the counties tax base, you must continue programs like elementary immersion. If we are going to try to compete as a global economy, we need to talk, act and think globally. This starts locally. Please DO NOT CUT ELEMENTARY IMMERSION PROGRAMS FROM THE BUDGET.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
371	Schools	Please do not cut our children's education: special-ed, reading resources, and ESL being priority to keep. Immersion programs are also valuable opportunities for those involved. Most importantly: staffing - class size / ratios is the most important factor to success (research-based). Thank you!
372	Schools	Do NOT cut our school system's music programs. It's unconscionable the board is even contemplating putting this on the chopping block. For many kids, this is key to reaching them on a level that reading, writing, observing, and listening cannot. As a tax payer, this makes me wonder about the competency of our community leaders who make these decisions, because they are clearly demonstrating to me that they simply don't understand how much of a difference the music programs make in our children's academic success.
373	Schools	Dr. Dale's dire message to FCPS employees mentioned many cuts that could be detrimental to students. There was not one administrative cut mentioned as being under consideration. The "fat cats" seem to protect those closest to them, but forget the purpose of the school district, which is to educate children in the best way possible. Let's see millions cut from Gatehouse and other administrative positions not located in active school buildings.
374	Schools	Continue to Fund the Fairfax Schools Marching Bands!
375	County	Since there are so many people retiring in the admin sector. Why not replace them with temps. This would save the county the cost of benefits and at least \$5 per hour in wages. I see a very BIG savings. Since they need to be trained. You could have them work along side of the soon to retire person.
376	County	Why are we paying for all this fuel for County vehicles (some of which are very gas consuming) to go outside the County to employees homes such as Front Royal and beyond when the vehicle can be parked at a County facility before they leave the County. Nobody is that important that they can't stop once in the County and then use the County Vehicle. These employees should be paying to drive back and forth to work just like the rest of us. We should have learned this from the recent negative press involving the Fire Department
377	Schools	As the parent of three children in the FCPS and a resident of Fairfax County I am keenly aware of the importance the schools play in the quality of life in FX County. However, I am weary of there budget and their statistics. For a number of years I tracked the school's budget as they rallied the troops to attend public budget hearings dressing their supporters in red, parading the students before the BOS, wearing buttons saying 'give us what's right, not what's left' only to see that at the end of the FY they had a budget surplus of \$5M, then \$10M, and \$12M that they were allowed to carryover. In the private sector this never would have been allowed. If they can't legitimately spend what they asked for in the first place, they should never be allowed to keep the \$\$ let alone continue receive more and more and more. Their statistics look grim or rosy to suit their purpose and they simply are taking advantage of the Government side of the house. It's time to stand up to them and say 'no more, make do'. You

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
378	County	I attended a recent community dialog session for employees and was disgusted by one of the statistics used in the introductory presentation. On page 9 it states that for FY2010 the County 'eliminated 306 positions'. When are we going to stop this charade of position counts? The library alone lost more positions than the County acknowledges, the only difference being most of these positions were exempt limiter-term (ELT) slots. It still equates to a lot of people who no longer have jobs, and this was presented to County employees who are supposed to know better. If the County won't admit the truth to ourselves, how do expect the public to understand the severity of what is happening? It's time to stop playing fast and loose with the position count!
379	Schools	I have lived in Fairfax County for over 30 years. I grew up in the FCPS system, and highly value my education. My husband and I moved to Fairfax County, specifically, for its high quality of life and promotion of public school education. In life, you get what you pay for. Therefore, we strongly urge the Fx County government to raise our property taxes, charge meals taxes, and/or DO WHATEVER IT TAKES to maintain and continue to improve our high quality schools. If our schools slip, our entire county will slip. We also strongly promote the foreign language in the elementary schools (FLES) program, along with all other programs currently on the "at risk" list. Please do whatever it takes to SAVE OUR SCHOOLS. Thank you.
380	County	I would like to voice my opinion about the importance of keeping our libraries running as much as possible. I am a stay-at-home mom with two small children. We depend on library for wholesome, economical, and learning activities. We attend the John Marshall Lunch Bunch every week to listen to stories and eat our lunch. My children enjoy listening to the stories and have learned how to sit still and be more quiet with this consistent activity. I believe it is important to save money and stay within one's means, but with the money that is available, I hope it will be used to keep our libraries running and providing its wonderful activities like Lunch Bunch. Thank you!
381	Schools	Proposed cuts to elementary school orchestra/band and foreign language programs would be devastating. While the financial picture will turn around in a year or so, these programs would take YEARS to recover. Children in grades affected by these cuts could NEVER recover these opportunities. For most children, the band/orchestra programs will be their only opportunity to explore instrumental music, as many other choices compete for their limited elective slots in middle school. They can never discover what could lead to a lifetime of enjoyment. The benefits of early foreign language exposure over later first-time exposure are well-known, and middle school is too late for these benefits. Choose cuts that don't cause such long-term devastation!

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
382	County	I've been told that one of the options the county is considering to help alleviate the budget situation is to cut all elementary school band and orchestra programs. I think this would be an enormous mistake. I am a 2009 graduate of a FCPS high school, and over the years music became a huge part of my life. I am now attending one of the nation's top music conservatories on scholarship because of the education I received through the county, beginning with picking up the saxophone in 5th grade. Music is my passion, and spreading the love of music to children is what I plan to do for the rest of my life, because it had such a hugely positive impact on me while a Fairfax County student. I truly hope you understand the ramifications of the decisions you are making, and I hope you use good judgment. Thank you for your time
383	County and Schools	It is quite unnecessary for Elementary and Middle School band and orchestra programs to be eliminated. For \$7 million per year? Really?! How much of a difference is that going to make in a \$162 million deficit? Not very much. The cost of depriving our youth of the high benefits of music programs is far more detrimental than the mere \$7 million per year the county spends to provide said programs. If music programs are eliminated, every other aspect in the school curriculum will be affected because studies show that students involved in band programs make better grades. Also, the time spent by the students in the program would become time for them to become involved in behaviors that are less than innocent. Think about what you're doing, don't deprive our youth of a musical and prosperous future. After all, band kids make better grades.
384	County and Schools	Absolutely do not cut elementary band and orchestra programs. The small savings you make will create enormous shortcomings for the students that could last a lifetime. Exposure music at a young age is imperative to all kinds of kids, artistically inclined or not. The thought of losing elementary music programs just breaks my heart.
385	County and Schools	Music in our schools is important. The integrity and culture that is taught to our children in band and orchestra classes is of great importance to their growth and development into active, informed and cultured citizens. Taking away this growth during one of the fastest learning times of a student's life is something that will not only affect the growth of the students in the band/orchestra, but also the students and community members who listen to groups from elementary school to high school. Removing band and orchestra from the Fairfax County elementary schools would be detrimental to the development of our children and should not even be considered, let alone carried out.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
386	County and Schools	You can not by any means cut Elementary music programs. Even though it may cut 7 million dollars a year, the long term effects outweigh the 7 mil/year. Music has been proven to help students in academic disciples! In this day and age, other countries such as China and North Korea are begging to rival the economic and military might of America. Those countries churn out very bright pupils that compete with our American students for international jobs, something that is becoming commonplace today. That being said, it is easy to come to the conclusion that education is a big part of national defense. Therefore taking music out of elementary schools (thus discouraging students from joining later on) hurts the average education level that Fairfax students graduate with, which in turn hurts our national defense. So please do not cut music, I would not know what this world would come to without music.
387	Schools	Please do not consider eliminating elementary music programs when working out the budget for 2011. These years are crucial to exposing children to band and orchestra, and developing their technique and practice routine before entering middle school. Fairfax County has a reputation nationally for its superlative bands and orchestras, and cutting elementary band and orchestra would be incredibly damaging to the quality of the high school ensembles in which our students participate.
388	County and Schools	PLEASE DO NOT cut the budget for elementary band and orchestra programs! These programs enrich children's lives and academic prowess for years to come. Thank you.
389	Schools	Do not cut funding for any of the grades !!! It's way too important in so many ways.
390	Schools	I oppose any cut in music classes for the elementary schools. In this school year 2009-10 many bus stops have been eliminated and some bus routes have been even longer. Although I suggested the bus route which will be shorter and economical.
391	Schools	Music is a critical program for all children. As you are making your budget decisions, please keep band and orchestra in the elementary schools. For some children it is their most positive experience and gives them skills not learned in academic studies.
392	Schools	The band program is very important in elementary school. I would advise against cutting this program. It is linked to math skills etc and eliminating math from the curriculum would never be considered. As a parent I would be willing to pay for this extra.
393	Schools	I refuse to let my children grow up or attend school in a county that values 4% of its budget over the music education programs in its schools. I wonder how much money would be saved if you dropped history- social studies, and didn't have to buy those thick textbooks.
394	Schools	1. Please do not cut music and art. These are critical to personal development. 2. Do look for non-essential things that can be reduced, such as nice-to-do field trips, or "fun" things that don't really add to educational growth or development.
395	County	Music is really important for young ages. Please do not cut it.

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Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
396	County	Do NOT cut music programs, particularly elementary school programs! Music has been proven to improve brain development, and students who are involved in music are also much more engaged in other academic pursuits.
397	County and Schools	This is in regards to the possibility of cutting musical ALL programs next year. If people would do more research into this matter, the effects it would have, then the choice would be simple...DO NOT CUT MUSIC. As a kid growing up, my only salvation was music. My daughter, now a sophomore, CONSTANTLY tells me that band is her life. Being a kid, then a teen has always been difficult, they need a way to express themselves.
398	Schools	It has been brought to my attention that there is a proposal to eliminate ALL elementary school band and orchestra programs. This cannot be allowed! Children develop a lifetime love for music when they are taught it from a young age. I myself started in band at age 10 and continued on through high school. I, to this day, still play the clarinet. I have also picked up the guitar and piano, in part because of my music back ground dating back to elementary school. Children learn so easily and when they can pick up an instrument and create a sound, much less a song, it's so gratifying not only for them but for their teacher and parents. It's an amazing confidence booster. It instills pride in one's work as well as listening skills. Music is too important to our children to take it away. We don't place as much value on music education as we should. I am appalled this was even a suggestion for budget cuts.
399	County and Schools	Please don't cut the band and strings programs from the elementary schools! These programs have proved to be very beneficial to the students, schools and communities. When students begin learning music earlier they start building the skills that they will need for the Middle and High School levels. Both of our children participated in both band and strings in elementary school, and both have done well in their music. I believe that the early start really had a part in this. Our daughter went on to earn two music degrees, and is working in the field. Many of her peers have gone on to work in the music field as well. Please don't cut the programs!
400	Schools	Cutting elementary music programs will have a negative impact on many facets of our children's future successes in academics and the arts. My children had the opportunity to be involved in band in elementary school and now they excel in their music programs at middle school and high school with plans to continue in college. Parents already bear a considerable amount of financial burden to be involved in band and orchestra. I probably spent close to \$2000.00 last year for my son to be involved in various bands and activities which were the highlight of his freshman year. He also was on swim team and all I had to do for that was buy a \$30.00 swim suit. If there is a shortfall than hold athletics accountable for their fare share and do not cut the music and arts more than you already have.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
401	County and Schools	Please keep the Language Immersion programs in the schools. These programs provide so much benefit for the both the kids and for Fairfax County. These types of programs encourage growing families to move to the county. They also provide our children with an opportunity to learn about the different cultures and better prepare them for a global community. These programs mean a lot to our children. Just ask the students who attend these programs or who have gone through the program. I wish that I had these opportunities when I grew up and I am proud to be a Fairfax County resident who can offer these opportunities to my children.
402	Schools	Go back to 1/2 day Kindergarten in the schools.
403	County and Schools	Do not Cut the music programs of FCPS elementar schools! Not only is it a valuable curriculum, but making cuts in the elementary schools would destroy middle and high school programs for years to come. Music and performing arts crosses over in to all of the SOL curriculums and is a valued part of our historical and cultural community. Enriching the lives of our students and community is at the heart of educating well rounded individuals. Academically and psychologically for learning music is a proven curriculum and offers stimulating learning that increases brain power, critical reasoning, and is proven to improve standardized test scores across the board.
404	Schools	Please don't cut the elementary school music program from the budget! My children have greatly benefited from early music instruction -- both of my children have gone on to be involved in middle school and high school music programs. The loss of this program will greatly impact the quality of middle school and high school music programs in future years as fewer students will have the opportunity to develop this interest early in their educational years. Please keep the music!!!
405	Schools	Don't cut language immersion programs in our schools! This can't possibly save enough money to offset the longer term cost from depreciated quality of education -- and to property values around our schools. I live in close proximity to Lake Anne Elementary School in Reston and have two children about to enter Kindergarten. I was planning to send them to Lake Anne, but if you cut these programs I will find a way to send them to private school--as I am sure other parents of means will with their high achieving children--resulting in a lesser school - and thus further sinking property values around that lesser school.
406	Schools	Please do not allow budget cuts to eliminate the band from our Elementary School's music program! It will most definitely have a negative effect on students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade as well as on all middle school and high school music programs. My children are currently in 7th and 11th grade and loved participating in band and chorus in elementary school and because of that opportunity they are still very active in their school's music program. Fairfax Co has a reputation as having outstanding bands and choral groups at all levels, as documented by the numerous awards and top rating they achieve every year in Virginia and other state competitions. Everyone's budget is tight right now, but there must be an alternative to cutting a program totally from a school.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
407	Schools	I've had 3 sons to benefit tremendously from beginning their musical careers at Lees Corner Elementary. One son is now at Chantilly HS and has been afforded opportunities to travel across the US and abroad. My youngest, still at Lees Corner, is developing a love for music and is finding that music is his "niche" and is quite proud to play the saxophone. Since my sons don't play sports, music will position them more competitively when they apply for college. \$7Million can be saved in other ways; however, the investment in a child's musical enrichment is priceless.
408	Schools	I don't understand why we pay to bus children to GT centers for elementary school. If parents opt to put their children in the center, they need to be responsible for transportation. I do not think we should be pay to bus children to programs that parents choose to put their kids in. I also do not think the county budget should pay for high school students to take the ACT, PSAT, SAT, and IB tests. This is a cost that families should cover. For families on free and reduced lunches, there could be a way to apply to have the costs covered, but the majority of Fairfax county families can cover these expenses for their own children.
409	County and Schools	I feel that it is extremely important that music programs remain an important part of the school day for all students in Fairfax County. It is especially important that music programs remain available in elementary school. Not all children have the opportunity or environment in their homes to experience music, and some children experience music and instruments for the first time in elementary school. Music and education are so closely intertwined it seems hard to imagine one without the other. Thank you for your careful consideration,
410	Schools	Please make the cuts fair. I have to drive my kids and pay for special transportation to get my kids to the Spanish Immersion program, while I have neighbors who get their kids picked up and bused to special GT schools. That is not fair. Kids who access advanced learning programs should all get transportation or none. Cut special transportation costs for advanced programs.
411	Schools	The budget must provide for an increase in the transfer to schools. AN excellent school system is core to the Fairfax reputation. The cuts proposed by simply maintaining the current transfer will have a long-term detrimental impact on Fairfax's place in the large business community. Our excellent schools are one of the primary things that encourages business to locate and remain in Fairfax

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
412	Don't Know	Policy regarding shift differential needs to be thoroughly reviewed for cost savings. Folks that take jobs that require evening and weekend shifts know what they are getting into when they take the job and should thus not be compensated additionally for those hours. How do other nearby counties handle this? It is also my understanding that in one agency part-time staff that work a four hour evening shift are still eligible for the shift differential but full-time staff no longer receive it due to their work shift start time even when they work evening hours alongside those part-time merit staffers receiving shift differential. This seems really lopsided...
413	Schools	Interestingly enough, amidst all the reductions in the schools last year, I am aware of one elementary school that was able to add an assistant principal. How could this be so? Adding a high dollar position like this implies a large commitment of funding at a time when the county and schools are trimming positions everywhere. Reevaluate the number of assistant principals required at all schools and stick with a rigid formula for adding such positions. How many low level front line, hands on with the kids, school support staff members were eliminated in order to achieve the needed cost savings this fiscal year plus fund this expensive assistant principal position? How many other assistant principal positions were added this fiscal year?
414	Schools	I am against cutting the music programs in the elementary and middle schools. This will be VERY detrimental to the high school programs. My 2 sons were very involved in band and it made a difference getting them into college. If you cut the program in the lower grades, the kids will not want to start band in high school- they will feel it is "too late". DO NOT CUT MUSIC OUT OF THE BUDGET.
415	Schools	Please DO NOT cut the elementary school music program! I am a parent of three teens who went through FCPS and I know the music program - band and choral - was a big part of who they are today. MUSIC IS IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN!
416	County and Schools	As a parent whose child has been part of the band program from Elementary School up into High School, I implore you not to cut the elementary school level band program to meet the budget shortfall. Elementary Band was a very worthwhile experience for my son, and I believe contributed greatly to his level of discipline and ability to focus, as well as demonstrating the power of working with others to create something beyond the scope of just one individual. These are important life lessons and would be sorely missed if eliminated.
417	Schools	The music program is very important to us; I'd really hate to lose that program. That said, I don't know what the tradeoffs are at the ES level.
418	Schools	Music beginning in elementary school has really helped a lot of children in their future - music has been proven to improve test scores also. Please consider cuts in areas of excess instead of areas of need like the music departments in our schools.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
419	Schools	I have a suggestion to increase financial efficiency at the schools. The children already have Meal Cards and financial accounts associated with those cards. I suggest that you use these cards for ALL financial charges that occur at the schools, such as book orders, magazine subscriptions, club fees, library book fees, PTA fees, and all of the many minor and major fees that parents have to pay. It's inefficient for parents to write multiple small checks for these fees. I'm not complaining about the fees, simply looking for a better way to manage the payments for the parents and the school. Maybe even have the fees documented ahead of time so the parents can have a menu at the beginning of the school year so they can read and understand what they're paying for rather than relying on the children to bring home flyers. This is a simple idea that I hope your financial dept can expand upon and make even better, and hopefully save money and time in the process.
420	County and Schools	I do not understand why the immersion programs are a good source for a budget cut. At Lake Anne Elementary, it is half the student population and most of these kids come from other base schools. If you got rid of the immersion program, these kids would still have to go to school somewhere. The immersion is part of the curriculum, it is not an additional class or teacher. Why would we remove such a great program that improves the child's cognitive abilities when it does not offer much cost savings? Some of the other suggestions that I saw will save 19 - 20 million dollars from the 176 million dollar deficit. Language instruction in elementary schools only saves 2 million. And I would guess that immersion is the smallest part of that 2 million dollar savings. The kids and families in immersions made a commitment to Fairfax county by taking their kids out of their base schools for 7 years to attend another school to become proficient at another language. It seems strange that we would be willing to scratch this program. for such a small savings. I would rather see the other budget cuts happen.
421	County and Schools	Cutting the music programs in FFX county any further is a huge mistake. Our children need the cultural arts programs that we have. Think of what's best for our students now and in their future.
422	Schools	Don't cut elementary and middle school music programs.
423	Schools	Do NOT cut the elementary schools music programs - strings and band in particular. This is a very important subject for our kids and will also have a severe detrimental impact on middle and high school band programs.
424	County and Schools	I know that cutting music in Elementary schools will save a bit of money now but there are many studies that say music helps math skills. Please do not cut music in Elementary schools.
425	Schools	Please don't eliminate the Foreign Language Immersion programs from the schools. They provide our children the opportunity to learn a second language at the ages when it is easiest for them to do so. It has been a wonderful program for my children and I think it would be a great loss for Fairfax County Schools!

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
426	County and Schools	please do not cut elementary school band and orchestra. My kids participate in orchestra and band, I can not imagine not having these programs. If this cut happens, how can this not affect my kids? I think this will severely impact the years to come if this happens. Please don't cut these programs to try to correct the budget shortfall. Thanks.
427	Schools	The county must provide more money to the schools. Classes are already overloaded, teachers are overworked. The elimination of elementary music and money to needy schools is a band aid to the fact the county and school district must change how they spend their money. Perhaps the board of supervisors should consider giving back that ridiculous, undeserved raise they gave themselves two years ago. Are they more deserving than teachers?
428	Schools	Don't cut elementary school music programs!!! Being from an elementary school program myself, I know that what happened in the music room or in the band room changed my life forever. Music changed me so much that I have now decided to become a music education major myself because I want to share the gift of music and playing an instrument with others especially young children! How can they experience this when you cut the program! It's impossible!
429	County and Schools	We do not want to eliminate the band and orchestra programs in elementary schools. We would be cutting out learning that is cognitive, feeling, producing and receiving feedback (on the learning) while involving oneself in the process. These are intellectual brain boosters that help young minds process problems and solutions in ways that are not always measured, but always produce higher levels of thinking. There is a reason we want our kids to hang with other band and orchestra kids - they are smart, motivated and focused. Music does that to a mind: it is very focused and it causes one to use their mind vigorously. Do not eliminate these learning multipliers from our schools and cause us to shoot ourselves in the foot (or brain). It is about learning music but it is also about developing young minds to be focused and successful - something we desperately need to reinforce.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
430	Schools	Full day kindergarten and the elimination of the strings and band program in elementary schools, among other things, have been slated for elimination on the strawman budget. As a lifelong resident of Fairfax County I am very concerned about these two cuts. Given the changing demographics of our county, full day kindergarten is essential to ensuring that children are ready to fully participate and reach their potential academically. The students that need it most are those that have not had the opportunity to attend pre-school. Similarly research has shown that playing a musical instrument leads to the development of a part of the brain and encourages discipline and hard work that contributes to success in math and english. The elimination of these programs similar to the elimination of 1/2 kindergarten has a disproportionate impact on those sectors of the population that cannot afford private alternatives and will have a significant impact on the success of the schools in the longer term as these elementary school students progress to middle and high school. Additionally the elimination of these programs will decrease the perception of the school system as best in class and negatively impact property values.
431	Schools	Please, if there are cuts start with those that do not have daily contact with students or have an impact on the daily school day like the technology people in schools or custodians. If you don't have contact with students, one should have to justify why they are needed. If you are not in a school, why? Stay out of the schools for cuts or especially first.
432	Schools	Please do NOT eliminate band and orchestra programs in ES, which would have a devastating ripple impact on MS and HS band/orch recruitment & quality. ES students begin playing when little else "non- academic" is offered during school (no talent required!); they often love it, while learning life lessons of persistence and time management. Besides documented positive impact hands-on music education has on math proficiency, band/orch participation: directly teaches how an individual's performance affects the group's performance, encourages a great sense of belonging (which is crucial for preteens and teens), helps prevent detrimental downtime, and is often fun! FCPS would lose more motivated students to private schools without their good band/orch programs.
434	County and Schools	The suggested cut of Elementary school orchestra and band would be sad statement of what Fairfax county deems important to educational standards. These music programs provide an opportunity for many children to increase their individual potential that they would not have otherwise. Fairfax county school system is one of the best because of its diversity in children and curriculum, this suggested cut would hurt both. Please do not vote to cut these programs.
435	Schools	Please do not cut elementary band and strings. As the parent of two current high school band students who have both played since elementary school, I have personal knowledge of the benefits of the wonderful FCPS music program. To cut elementary band and strings would do irreparable damage to this program.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
436	Schools	When considering freezing teachers' salaries for 2 years in a row, please think about the very negative impact that this has on the students. As a teacher, I can tell you that many other teachers are adopting the attitude that they are no longer willing to go the extra mile for their school or for the kids because they are understaffed, over-worked (expectations and class size increase), and under-paid. This negative attitude immediately affects the students because of what teachers are now willing and not willing to do for their kids. We spend more \$ each year out of our pockets for classroom expenses, have more work to bring home with us each night because our classes are bigger, and we are not being compensated for it. I have heard from many teachers that they are looking for other teaching positions outside of Ffx Co. and we are in jeopardy of losing some highly-qualified, fabulous teachers. If we want to attract more of those types of teachers to our county, we need to pay them equitably for the job.
437	Schools	Fairfax County has always prided itself on the rate of students going to college following high school graduation. Our College and Career Center Specialists in the high schools work with all students on their post-secondary goals including those students who will be among the first in their families to go to college to ensure that students have the information they need to make informed decisions through the process. College and Career Center Specialists also provide access to scholarships which allow many of our students to attend college. Please do not cut this valuable position within the school system.
438	Schools	Please do not cut funding for music and the arts at the elementary school level. Research is showing that exposure to and experience with music increases brain development in a wide variety of areas, including math. In addition, it contributes to becoming a well-rounded adult with the ability to be creative. Removing those opportunities from young children would be a terrible mistake!
439	Schools	To Whom it may Concern, Please do not cut any monies from the music programs in the any of the schools. I have heard that a cut is possible for elementary school band and orchestra. That program serves as the foundation for the middle and high school band and orchestra programs. It keeps so many kids active and involved through their school years who do not fit into the sports mode. Please reconsider this cut, as the program benefits many children. Thank you.
440	Schools	Cutting music programs is a mistake.
441	County and Schools	Please DO NOT CUT MUSIC/BAND in our elementary schools. Music is critical at an early age and without it you will have a limited number of children that choose to pursue it in the high school years. If anything - keep it in elementary and have middle and high school students subsidize their participation in the program. Don't hurt the very young. By introducing it early there is a better chance for long term participation. CUT OUT FOREIGN LANGUAGE. My children don't need to learn CHINESE in elementary school.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
442	Schools	<p>My two children have attended Fairfax County Schools and been involved in music programs at all levels. The most common things in all of their studies is the TEAMWORK and CAMRADERIE of the students they come to know. They also learn RESPONSIBILITY and TIME MANAGEMENT skills that are not necessarily learned either at home or elsewhere for that matter. Where else can you do something that is a REWARD in itself? And at the same time get the SATISFACTION of doing something that IMPACTS OTHERS on such a PERSONAL level and leaves a LASTING IMPRESSION of not just yourself or the group you are with, but of the ENTIRE ART OF MUSIC. MUSIC has the ability to TAKE YOUR MIND ,IMAGINATION AND HEART where it has not been and LEAVES THE MEMORY to be re-visited as often as you like MUSIC has the ability to make you FEEL JOY, SORROW, PAIN, HOPE, COMPASSION. In my experience, NOTHING ELSE CAN DO ALL THESE THINGS. Over and above all this, MUSIC gives our children a FOCUS and DIRECTION otherwise absent.</p>
443	Schools	<p>As a self-employed music teacher, I feel compelled to implore you to reconsider cutting the music programs in elementary schools in Fairfax County. While I teach piano students in my home, ranging in age from 3 to 50, it is the excitement I see in my elementary students' eyes as they express their joy of performing with their peers in string and band concerts at school that tells me the public school music program is a vital part of their education. The students look forward to the opportunity to play a variety of instruments as a result of their in-school music experiences. Playing in an ensemble with their peers builds their self-confidence and propels them to pursue music activities after school as they become teenagers, keeping them focused, disciplined and out of trouble. Fairfax County schools have a reputation for excellence, and the budget cuts in the music programs would have a detrimental affect on the future county graduates!</p>

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
444	Schools	In the 2010 budget FCPS allocated \$3,501 per ESOL student. 21,347 students were eligible for the ESOL program. That totals \$74.7 million dollars. Though I agree this is a vital program, I am curious if any studies have been performed to look for possible efficiency opportunities (read lower cost). For example, it appears there are staffing requirements at each school to facilitate this program - why not treat it like the gifted and talented program and centralize it. If you utilize the same schools for ESOL as you do for gifted and talented, then you can leverage the same transportation. If the above suggestion is not practical, then ensuring ESOL resources are distributed efficiently may help save money. Though the total number of ESOL students is provided, the breakdown by grade (elementary, middle, high school) is not. Given this information resources may be more efficiently allocated to reduce costs. Finally, what measurements does FCPS have on the effectiveness of this program? I've seen the performance gap decrease depicted in the FY2011 budget planning document, but more specifics may point to more opportunities for reduced cost. For example, how long is a typical ESOL student engaged in the program? What is the cost per student over his/her duration in the program? I would assume ESOL is intended to be 'short-term' program to make the student proficient as quickly as possible. If this assumption is correct, is the goal being met or do we have students in the program for multiple years?
445	Schools	Free and Reduced Priced Meals Questions: 1) Why does the number of students eligible for the FRM program get weighted into the teacher staffing requirements? a.ESOL also appear to be a weighted factor. If a student is both FRM and ESOL, are they weighted twice with regards to teacher staffing? 2) It appears there are multiple costs associated with FRM eligible students as and conversely, various Federal Grants (or other funding). That said, what is the net estimated cost per student for this program related to food expenditures? Can you provide a single list of all services provided to FRM students and associated costs and where that funding comes from? For example, 6000 instruments were provided to FRM students via the Instruments for All Program. 3) As food is perishable, it is costly to plan meals for the FY 2010 estimated 39,019 students eligible for this program and not have them eat the food. Are there statistics available that speak to the actual number of meals eaten contrasted to the number of meals left uneaten (wasted)? I do see some measures have been implemented to reduce wastage such as moving from a 3-week cycle to a 2-week cycle, but what is the current cost of wastage?
446	Schools	It is a huge mistake to cut the budget for Music, Teachers or Summer School for our children. Fairfax doesn't offer all the options in Music & Summer School that less wealthy districts offer. If any academic area must be cut, Health is the best choice. There is no evidence that the Health Program has a positive impact on our students. How many years in a row do they have to be given the same information? Parents and students alike realize the program is fluff. If more money is needed cut Health classes & tax gasoline and cigarettes at a higher rate= a healthier choice.



## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
447	Schools	The music programs at the Elementary and Middle School levels are critical to the development of our children. It is proven how it impacts math skills. Students involved with music are more likely to go onto higher education. We also need to continue the College And Career Dept. in the High Schools. We want to give all children the opportunity to go to college and this dept educates and aids those kids in both the college sense and for immediate job location. Many kids do not have parent support to help them with the process nor to encourage them to follow their dreams.
448	Schools	I mostly strongly support retention of elementary and middle school music programs in Fairfax County Schools. Music has the power to sustain us through the most difficult times, and I believe the county has a responsibility to provide the opportunity for all of its students to have exposure to and the chance to develop life-long skills in this enriching discipline.
449	Schools	I am a parent of a Japanese Immersion Program student at Great Falls Elementary. I strongly oppose cutting the elementary-based foreign language immersion programs. They are a jewel in the crown of Fairfax County public schools. It is a shame that foreign languages are not available at EVERY elementary in Fairfax County. Studies have shown that the early a child is exposed to a new language the easier it will be for him to acquire this language and others. A foreign language program is critical to our children's future participation in a global economy and is an enormous positive impact on them in every way.
450	Schools	Why does the FCPS Office of Facilities Management conduct ESOL training for custodial staff per page 296 of the FY2010 approved budget and what does that cost?
451	Schools	Of the \$44,552,924 in the FY 2010 Privatized Services included in the Operating Expenditure detail, 12,113,447 is listed as "Other Professional Svcs". Can you provide more detail on what those other privatized services are? Seems a proportionally large number to place in an "other" category.
452	County and Schools	I have kids in the schools and I'm involved with my local library. In the middle/high school range, there is a tremendous overlap of services with what the public libraries provide. Additionally, usage in the school libraries in these age ranges drops significantly. After evaluating REAL figures of usage, it might be good to have a FCPS/FCPL committee look at ways they can complement each other to trim the budgets rather than continue to compete.
453	County	Why, in the FY 2010 Adopted Budget pie chart does it show Parks/Rec/Library as one entity? It would be more realistic to separate them and then show exactly how little each of these areas is receiving in comparison to the schools and other services.
454	Schools	I beg you not to eliminate foreign language programs at ES! Children in this country need exposure to other cultures and languages more than ever so that they can use the skills, appreciation, and understandings in this globally connected world when they become America's work force in the future. As the parents of a child who is benefiting from the program, we are grateful and are strong supporters of the foreign language program. Please, please, please, keep the program!

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
455	Schools	I think cutting out band and orchestra in the elementary schools is a poor choice for saving money. There are studies out that show that children who play an instrument do better in school than those who don't. Although there is the option for a family to choose to give their children private lessons, the school option allows kids to try an instrument without major investment. By curtailing or cutting out instrumental instruction in the elementary schools, you will also cause problems down the line for band and orchestras at the high school level. Where will the feeder sources come from for marching bands, for example, which are part of the high school sports experience? Don't be penny wise, pound foolish. Our children will suffer.
456	County and Schools	Find cost savings through reduced lighting in hallways and other less used areas in our schools and other county buildings. For example, if a light fixture takes 3 bulbs only put in 2 bulbs or only put bulbs in every other fixture, for example. I think we provide more light than needed in many areas and could realize a savings if we conserved more energy and used fewer light bulbs.
457	Schools	FCPS should attempt to secure funding for the Foreign Language Immersion Programs by contacting companies with ties to the area, such as asking Volkswagen to sponsor the German Immersion Program, Mitsubishi for the Japanese Immersion Program, and one of the 12 Fairfax County companies on the 2007 Hispanic Business 500 for the Spanish Immersion Programs (MVM Inc. of Vienna, Geologics Inc. of Alexandria, Tessada & Associates of Springfield, Preferred Systems Solutions Inc. of Fairfax, Priority One Services Inc. of Alexandria, Kemron Environmental Services Inc. of Vienna, Computing Technologies Inc. of Fairfax, Engineering Management & Integration Inc. of Herndon, Cairo Corporation (now Citizant) of Chantilly, SCI Consulting Services Inc. of Vienna, MAC Aerospace Corp. of Chantilly, MicroTech LLC of Vienna).
458	Schools	Please do not cut Elementary school band. The proven relationship between band and mathematics shows how vital this program is to our county. We need to improve our students math abilities and band beginning at a young age is one of the critical components of this effort.
459	Schools	I feel the music department is a program my children have loved through the years. It has increase their awareness for math as well as patterning. They look forward to music and love to play. It would be a shame to cut such programs and make schools nothing but reading, writing and math!!
460	County and Schools	Please do not consider cutting music in elementary schools in the coming budget. the money saved is not significant and the area is one of the few programs that can have a great impact on the life of many students. I would rather see more fees for testing all students at all levels since that is a current trend in our county anyway. We have limited our children's well rounded education enough. Thank you for your consideration. Stop cutting the arts in our county schools.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
461	Schools	Children who are adequately exposed to two languages at an early age experience gains: they are more flexible and creative, and they reach high levels of cognitive development at an earlier age than their monolingual peers (Hamayan, 1986). "Research has shown that through foreign language study, elementary school children receive the opportunity to expand their thinking, to acquire global awareness, to extend their understanding of language as a phenomenon, and to reach an advanced proficiency level in that foreign language. Parents, educators, and policymakers should find these reasons more than enough to prove the benefits of beginning foreign language study in the elementary school." <a href="http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-9218/start.htm">http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-9218/start.htm</a>
462	Schools	In all honesty, I understand that GT students should have access to GT centers, but I do not believe the county should bus these students. There are students who are bused great distances and this creates a ridiculous financial strain in gas and longer hours in paid employee time. GT centers are not a necessity, but a privilege for these students, and they will do well academically no matter where they are placed. TJ students are also bused from many far distances. I believe the privilege of attendance to these facilities outside of a student's school base area does not warrant tax payer dollars in transportation. The parents of these students should arrange transportation for their children.
463	Schools	If our schools are in the business of "true education", preparing our students to contend in an International arena in the 21st century, then elimination of the language immersion program goes against logic. It is no longer a scientific hypothesis but a scientific fact that a second language produces various cognitive advantages for children. Fairfax has a reputation of innovative education, of leading the way, let's not become like so many and just tick the box of education and "babysit" children. Elimination of a successful program is fiscally and educationally short sighted. These students still need qualified teachers, so if not a bilingual one another one. Elimination means the county would then assume transportation costs for each child and possibly lots of children in this program would then transfer to the GT program assuming additional costs to the county. As a solution my suggestion would be also to have half day kindergarten across the board as it makes fiscal and educational sense if indeed we are in the business of "true education" and not just public funded "babysitting". Let's focus on how we can in Fairfax remain innovative in our educational strategy and commit to the 21st century competition our children face, lets not let them down, secure the language immersion because it makes educational sense and is fiscally a bang for a buck.
464	Schools	The music program in elementary schools is so important to the children. For most children is the first opportunity to learn music. The best age to start learning music is during their elementary years. Please keep this program working. Thank you.
465	Schools	Please maintain or increase funding for music programs at all levels. Elementary music education prepares kids for later musical endeavors. Music is a pillar of civilization and music education has been shown to improve math performance of music students. Please keep music in our schools--all schools--all levels.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
466	Schools	You CANNOT cut elementary music programs! These programs are extremely important to the development of children, and these cuts will also drastically affect middle and high school programs, which in Fairfax are some of the best.
467	Schools	We parents SHOULD pay fees for extracurricular activities (sports, clubs, music, drama, etc.), parents SHOULD also pay for all testing (PSAT & AP), NOT the County (a student can still take the class to show advanced studies for college). Transportation to area GT school should NOT be provided by County if "home" school offers GT classes. In fact, STOP GT Centers (very small percent of total population) GT could be provided by subject at "home" school for each subject using differentiated instruction via pre-tests; this would save a lot in transportation & still offer the services. STOP intercession at year-round schools (small percent of total population). Increase fees for SAAC. DO NOT stop all day kindergarten. DO NOT stop band & orchestra.
468	County and Schools	Cut school funding. Public education should not be expected to compete with private education. Let class sizes grow and STOP building admin buildings. My real estate taxes are way too high as it is. Whatever you do please do NOT raise taxes in any form. Cut back and instill more discipline in public schools. For example, JEB Stuart is an abject disaster.
469	Schools	I am a high school student and I think cutting band in our elementary schools is a drastic idea. Our music programs in Fairfax county do so well because it starts with strong programs in the elementary schools. My school West Potomac had both its drum line and concert band going to Indianapolis this year. Only 16 bands get invited to that. You're telling me that you want to cancel this program in the elementary schools that will definitely affect these high school problems. So I ask you as a student who has done band since 4th grade please do not cut these programs. Through it, it raises self esteem, gives you something to do, and keeps you in with a good crowd of kids. So please please keep this program strong
470	County	Cutting elementary school music is NOT an option. It will not save much money in the big picture of things, but it will hurt the county's music programs at the middle and high school level. For example, high school marching bands will be much less skilled and the standard will be lowered at all competitions eventually making bands from Fairfax inferior to those of other counties. We should not have to be inferior in any way. Don't take your irresponsibility with money out on the music students and teachers of our county. Middle school students should be starting to expand their musical ability, not picking what instrument to play for the first time.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
471	Schools	You cannot cut elementary school music programs. Fairfax has one of the best band programs in the country and part of that is due to students starting during elementary school. Also, in elementary school you can take music classes without it impacting your schedule; it allows you to get a feel for whether or not you would like to continue with an instrument or not. Whereas, if the option only raised in middle school, when kids only have two electives, they might not bother to take music classes because they don't want to waste an elective on something they're not sure of. I just think that by cutting elementary school band programs you underestimate the importance of it in creating our great Fairfax music programs. We really do have an amazing program in Fairfax and if you'd like to keep it that way than you can't change how we've been doing it.
472	Schools	Please do not cut music in elementary & middle school. The music is so important to our students.
473	County and Schools	All of my children have been involved in elementary as well as middle and high school band. I believe that this experience has increased their friendships, self esteem, and confidence. Starting music at a young age helps them to learn easier. I remember bringing my children home with their very first trumpet or flute; the blissful look on their faces is impossible to forget. I know that the high school band programs will not be nearly as impressive as they are now. Fairfax County has a reputation for being an excellent music county, and they will lose that elementary school music is cut. It will also only save 7 million out of a 162 deficit. This is such an insignificant number compared to all of the wonderful band directors, memories, and experiences the children of our future will lose. I know that cutting elementary school music would do far more harm than good.
474	Schools	I don't think raising taxes in general would be beneficial to shore up the County's budget -- but for those parents whose children are still attend Fairfax County Schools -- consider a voluntary special assessment. Fairfax County has many well-to-do families and neighborhoods who I'm sure would be willing to donate some additional funds in order to help diffuse the County's budgetary shortfall for education. We have two young children attending Ft. Hunt Elementary School's Spanish Immersion Program and value it so much (and really what the country offers in general in the way of special programs for its students) -- that we would be willing to donate \$500. I'm sure that most families throughout Fairfax County would be willing to donate something. Given the size of Fairfax Country families with children in public schools, I'm sure these donations would help shore up the County's budgetary shortfall for educational. Maybe the "donations" could become tax-deductible or even reductions in real-estate
475	Schools	There was the suggestion that Pimmit Hills Alternative School should be closed. These students can readily receive services at Mountain View, Bryant, or Woodson Adult School. After having worked there for five years, and now comparing it to a regular FCPS school, it is not an efficient use of tax dollars. The staffing is bloated for a school that size and the other alternative schools can easily absorb those additional students. Such a move would have minimal disruptive impact on students and would be at one million dollars on the way to closing the budget gap.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
476	Schools	Do not reduce music program \$ in our elementary schools and beyond, this is where the appreciation and learning of fine arts begins, it is too late to start in middle school and high school.
477	Don't Know	I believe it is absolutely imperative when considering the 2011 budget to support our autism program as fully as possible. Raising the student-teacher ratio for the autism program would be incredibly damaging to the quality of education for autistic children. Given that 1 in 91 children are now diagnosed with autism, FCPS needs to remain at the forefront of high-level services for this growing population. A 3:1 ratio as proposed in the new budget would absolutely destroy any possibility of meeting all the goals necessary for autistic children to eventually mainstream. Please do not consider adding this terrible provision of a 3:1 ratio in autism classes into the budget.
478	Schools	Please do not cut the full-day kindergartens! This would be a step backward for the county and our students. Kindergarten students today come to school with far more preparation and background knowledge and we need to have a full-day program in order to have the time with them to help them move forward. A half-day kindergarten program is not appropriate for today's students. It would be better to decrease the school year by 3 or 4 days. In June the students are ready for vacation and the academic curriculum standards have been accomplished. It is not necessary to keep our students in school until mid June. It is not that productive. Let's save money that way rather than cut full-day kindergarten or teachers. We could also switch to a 4 day school week. Thank you, A concerned full-day kindergarten teacher.
479	Schools	As a lifelong Fairfax County resident, now a father of two, I know that our schools are among the very best in the country, that they offer exceptional value for my tax dollar, and that they attract jobs and workforce talent to the area. Let's not mess them up in order to close a budget gap. It's always appropriate to look at each expenditure, with particular scrutiny to administration and sub-scale schools, but let's make sure we preserve distinctive programs like foreign language immersion, all-day kindergarten, and AP classes. I would much prefer an increase in the current tax rate - down quite a bit from the \$1.23 per \$100 I remember from my youth - to program cuts.
480	Schools	DO NOT cut music education in the schools. It is very important for our students and important to the quality and reputation of Fairfax County schools. My children both attend FCPS and have benefitted greatly from these programs.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
481	County and Schools	Please do not cut the band and elementary strings program from our elementary schools. I believe that the enrichment of the music program for the kids not only enhances their lives but also gives kids an opportunity for being involved in a program that helps them stay out of trouble in these very troubling times! I work with the Music program in the high school for going on my third year now and the kids are good kids! Because of their involvement in Band they do stay out of trouble because they stay busy with an outlet that uses their talents. And they are good!!! In fact we just won a Superior rating (the highest) at the State competition last Saturday and that would not have been achievable if they had not been introduced to an instrument early in elementary school. Please do not cut the program. It's way too valuable for our students' lives!
482	Schools	PLEASE do not cut elementary music programs. It is too important to our kids and to middle and high music programs. Kids need music at a young age. Please don't cut it.
483	County	Comment on Libraries: As a volunteer for the Reston Regional Library for many years, I have never seen the library as busy as it has been this past year -- because, I believe, of the economic downturn and a tremendous need and desire on the part of Restonians to read and get access to up-to-date info. I think it is extremely unwise and short-sighted to cut the budget for this very popular library any more than absolutely necessary and I would urge you to find other ways to save \$ and keep the libraries open and stocked. I believe many residents of the county would be delighted to volunteer to help keep the libraries open. I hope that you will keep the spotlight on this issue, the proposed cuts, and more by making sure that there is plenty of media coverage, including contacting The Washington Post to do a story on what you are proposing to do to our wonderful libraries.
484	Schools	Please do not cut the music (band, chorus and orchestra) programming in elementary schools. These programs provide students with much-needed avenues for creative expression and self-discipline. I have two daughters who are currently in high school music programs: band and chorus, respectively. The preparation they received through the elementary and middle schools has enabled them to excel in high school music, and the programs provide an avenue for them to achieve and develop additional skills that help them with all their schoolwork. I strongly urge you to reconsider cutting these excellent programs from our Fairfax elementary schools.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
485	County and Schools	As an employee for Falls Church City Public Schools I understand the difficult financial situation the Board faces both this year and for FY11. Cuts and reductions are imminent. But as a parent of an incoming kindergarten student I am greatly alarmed at the decision to discontinue full-day kindergarten. Perhaps freezing the transition for the remaining schools who do not currently have it should be considered before reverting back to what had already been decided wasn't adequate for our children in the first place. I'm not currently aware of how many schools do or don't have full-day kindergarten, but I am strongly opposed to its elimination for those schools who do have it and have had it for a few years now. Based on what I would have to pay in child care expenses if this proposal moves forward, we would seriously consider keeping our daughter in her private school in order for her to receive a full-day kindergarten program and afternoon child care. I do know that I am not alone in my thinking. Please carefully consider the far-reaching implications of such a decision. Good luck in the budget season. I know you have difficult decisions to make.
486	Schools	I'll be brief - Save Music!
487	Schools	The Oct 19th press release indicated FCPS was considering eliminating elementary school band and orchestra programs. I urge FCPS to eliminate this option from consideration. Musical training at an early age has been demonstrated to improve academic performance (especially in mathematics). In an increasingly competitive world, we should be focused on providing an education program designed to emphasize the importance of achieving academic excellence and in college preparation. Perhaps the focus on athletics in the county could rely more on participant funding rather than County funding to achieve some fiscal savings rather than cutting programs that enhance our children's educational experience.
488	Schools	I cannot believe that the Board is considering cutting all elementary band and orchestra programs - this is one of the jewels of our school system. Academic studies consistently link higher school performance to participation in band/orchestra programs. We will lose a HUGE proportion of upper level music students by cutting those programs at the elementary school level. This is not a wise choice and one that harms the county as a whole.
489	Schools	My daughter is a student at Orange Hunt Elementary school and is also currently enrolled in the German Partial Immersion program. I am hoping that FCPS can find another way to help the budget other than cancelling this program. The program has done so much for our daughter's self esteem and confidence level. She has just started Second grade and is using German to communicate at home with us voluntarily because it make her feel special to be able to do that. I also fail to see how cutting this program will save a lot of money for the FCPS school system. Even if you break down the immersion programs and send those kids back to there home schools they will still need teachers to educate them. I am begging you to try to save this important program.



## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
<b>Added October 28, 2009</b>		
490	Schools	PLEASE DO NOT END FOREIGN LANGUAGE FUNDING IN FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOLS!!! I am a parent and taxpayer in Fairfax County. One of the main reasons that my husband and I moved to Fairfax County was because of it's fabulous public schools and it's exceptional Immersion Programs. When I tell friends and family that my son's spend half of their day learning in Japanese, the first response is...This is a public school??? The Immersion Program is a very small part of the overall budget but the benefits to our children is IMMENSE!!! We realize that times are tight BUT by cutting this program you would be erasing years and years of our children's hard work!!! Thank you for your consideration, this program is important to many!!
491	County and Schools	The first line of cuts should be services to illegal aliens. Require proof of identification for all services. An enormous amount of money will be saved this way. Secondly, the school budget needs to be cut, and not in the classroom where it affects our children first-hand. Don't cut elementary band and strings. It's unbelievable that FCPS is proposing to cut foreign language, especially in this day and age as the world economy has gone global. Full-day kindergarten should be eliminated for ALL schools, even Title 1. Those 34 Title 1 schools should not continue to have full-day kindergarten at the expense of all taxpayers. Cut teachers' salaries or at least freeze them for one year. In this time of severe recession, they should understand and be thankful they have a job like everyone else who has a job. Cut from the school administration. Don't take away the programs that set FCPS apart from other schools (band and strings foreign language, etc). I have been paying taxes for over 10 years and finally have a child about to enter kindergarten next year. My child deserves better.
492	Schools	Orchestra and band at the elementary school level are an important program to maintain. My daughter has wanted to play the violin since she was 4 and has patiently waited until she was in fourth grade to begin. She is now in fifth grade and is enjoying her second year of orchestra at her elementary school. I would hate to see the program come to an end due to budget cuts.
493	Schools	I believe the language immersion programs are an invaluable benefit to Fairfax County and its residents. These programs enhance the total education of our children, keeping them engaged and enthusiastic about all learning. This very special learning environment results in less additional time and money spent bringing students up to grade level.
494	County and Schools	I find it interesting that Fairfax County is considering cutting all Elementary Band and Orchestra programs not too long after making its commitment to the Fine Arts. A recent study came out of the New York Public School System stating that higher graduation rates correspond directly with the access to Fine Arts programs. Yes, this study may only talk about high school programs, but imagine the impact if students are given the opportunity at younger ages. Here is the website for your own reading: <a href="http://www.cae-nyc.org/content/groundbreaking_study_links_high_hs_graduation_rates_strong_arts_education_programs">http://www.cae-nyc.org/content/groundbreaking_study_links_high_hs_graduation_rates_strong_arts_education_programs</a>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
495	Schools	Even though I have children in FCPS, I believe the school budget needs to be cut. There are too many administrative positions and other various "specialist positions", like technical, technical specialist, career specialist. If you can cut a school nurse you can cut several of these "specialist" positions. A school nurse provides far more value to the children. Do not increase class sizes anymore or cut any more good teachers. They are the ones who have the challenging task of educating our children first hand and deserve our support and their pay. Ask Mr Jack Dale, the Superintendent, and his assistant superintendents to take a pay cut. I've tried to contact Dale and never even received an email back. What value does he add to my children's education? If you're going to cut full-day kindergarten, cut it for ALL schools, even Title 1. Why should all taxpayers have to pay for those students?
496	Schools	PLEASE DO NOT CUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSIC. IT IS TOO IMPORTANT FOR OUR KIDS!!
497	Schools	Cut administration staff positions, eliminate full-day kindergarten for all schools, and eliminate free preschool and free lunch programs.
498	Schools	Dear FCPS Board Members: I am a parent of two children who are in the Japanese Immersion Program, a unique and Nationally known Program for which parents move to North Virginia, just as we did from New York City to Fairfax County. We have sadly heard the news of this Program being considered to be discontinued for budget cuts, while our children who have been prepared over the years to believe that they will be in the Program until the end of middle school, are literally shocked to hear the massive change of their instruction, shifting Math, Science and Health from Japanese to English, in a sudden manner. We believe that the children who are now in the Program do have the right to stay in the Program they were admitted to by FCPS. A phasing out approach should be considered, as was done in Floris ES, to keep the children who are already in the Program studying as JIP students until they finish Middle School. Even if the Japanese Immersion Program is phased out in FCPS, it is advised that it should stay fully available in at least one site: either in Great Falls ES or in Fox Mill ES. It is a Regional Flagship of FCPS, not to be lost. There are numerous places to cut the budget, such as Transportation, Counselors, ...etc, while keeping intact all the front line teachers, special education teachers, and language teachers in Elementary Schools and classes, including JIP classes. Thank you very much for your wisdom to avoid the psychological shock our children, and in fact all JIP children, will have if such an abrupt change is made in their primary education.
499	County and Schools	Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars now, but the total negative impact that will be felt for many, many years will far outweigh any short term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. Starting music at a young age is so important. We also risk losing our very high-quality group of elementary school music teachers, who have been instrumental in establishing a strong foundation for the Fairfax County school music program, which is recognized as one of the strongest in the country. We can't let the county cut music programs.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
500	Schools	Who is going to do the job of a School Based Technology Specialist? Even if the SBTS is cut by 50% our students lose. SBTS will spend all their time fixing instead of instructing like they do now with 1 SBTS per school. SBTS Are: We are committed to: Educators/Teachers Differentiating instruction for our adult and student learners Analysts Compiling and deciphering data that drive instructional decisions Communicators Articulating needed information to stakeholders (students, staff and parents/community) Connectors Bridging the gap between Instructional Services and Informational Technology Coordinators Creating collaborative environments to reach a goal Designers Designing and developing digital-age contemporary tools and resources to maximize content learning Facilitators Helping our school community develop, understand and reach common objectives Implementers Spearheading IS, IT and local initiatives Installers Preparing technology for student and staff use Integrators Enriching curriculum with the use of technology Interpreters Translating "geek speak" to the masses Leaders Providing guidance and encouragement to empower our staff and students Learners Modeling that learning is a lifelong process Liaisons Serving as the "glue" to bring school, central and community initiatives together Managers Ensuring that goals and objectives of projects are met and mitigate any unforeseen developments Motivators Inspiring people to move forward despite reluctance Planners Building the parameters for projects and organizing their completion Problem Solvers Troubleshooting issues that inhibit integration in the classroom (instruction, equipment and accounts) Researchers Staying current with best technology practices Team members Working with multiple school-based and central teams Technicians Maintaining awareness of current technological tools and practices Therapists Easing anxiety in support of faculty and students Visionaries Visualizing the future and taking steps to translate possibility into reality Writers Initiating proposals and disseminating pertinent information.
501	County and Schools	I am alarmed to hear that the elementary foreign language programs are slated for elimination. These are valuable programs! People learn languages so easily at young ages. By waiting until high school to introduce foreign languages to students, American school systems have long missed the critical window for helping children become adept at using another language. I was so pleased when I learned two years ago that the Fairfax County School System was offering foreign language immersion programs. Finally a school system has figured it out! I thought. I promptly enrolled my daughter in the Japanese language immersion program at Great Falls. I will be extremely disappointed if the county cuts these valuable programs.
502	Schools	I am opposed to any budget cuts for music programs in our schools.
503	County and Schools	Please do not cut the music departments effort to introduce string instruments to our children in elementary schools, so they can continue playing on up through middle and high school.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
504	Schools	Do not cut programs to elementary schools. The youngest children in our community should not have to suffer due to the fiscal mismanagement of adults. Music and foreign language are especially important because these subjects are best taught to younger children, so it would be devastating to close that window of opportunity on optimal learning. The negative impact of these cuts will be felt for a lifetime in exchange for a small savings. Do not be short-sighted. Stop the construction and remodeling of schools instead.
505	Schools	Please do not cut music programs out of elementary schools! If you have to cut back a bit I understand, but it's important to start music in elementary school!
506	Schools	I can't believe that you are considering cutting all elementary strings and band programs in the elementary schools. The effect on student achievement would be devastating. Please look at the top heavy administrative positions in the county for places to trim your budget. Please look at the number of office staff in schools. Stop taking educationally sound programs out of our schools. Research supports the importance of the arts in the cognitive development of children. Students in music programs score higher on your standardized tests.
507	County and Schools	NO to cutting back on school music programs - it is an important aspect in the growth and development of our children.
508	Schools	Dear Fairfax County, Thank you for the clear explanation of the county's budget issues. We benefit a lot from the county's programs and care for the better living environment. However, I should think it is a little unfair if most of the decrease in revenue that causes the budget cut for the next fiscal year results in the budget cut in schools. Our oldest child hits the kindergarten age next year, and it would be such a disappointment if he does not get the same wonderful program as currently enjoyed. Among all the wonderful programs, it would particularly be a shame if you had to reconsider the foreign language programs, secondary at base school and immersion programs offered at some schools. Your goal of encouraging students to master one other language than English by the time of graduation from high school is such a great idea and students will surely get an immense benefit by learning more languages, because it is not just language they learn, but also the cultures and thoughts about the other parts of the world that comes with it when one studies foreign language. This is so important particularly when one lives in a huge country and feels geographically and mentally not so close to other parts of the world. We hope that you would not have to discontinue or give up on that. We look forward to further updates and any positive suggestions to keep up with the current fine programs. Many thanks.
509	County and Schools	do not cut the band or orchestra program. it provides healthy activities for our kids and keeps them off the streets especially in high school when they spend their weekends marching and our too tired to move on Sunday.
510	Schools	Please do not balance the budget on the backs of our children! Do NOT revert back to half-day kindergarten, do not eliminate elementary school band/strings. Responsible citizens are willing to pay more in taxes--reinststate the county sticker and personal property tax, and voila--the shortfall disappears!

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
511	County and Schools	I am writing out of concern for the proposed cut of all elementary school bands and strings programs. It is upsetting to discover that the county is cutting a program that is considered important enough to be a part of NCLB. This cut would have a similar impact on this county's music program as if 1st and 2nd grade math were cut. Students will not be able to perform at a comparable level. The impact on middle and high school programs will be severe across the county. The students will lose an amazing opportunity to learn not just music, but important life and performance skills.
512	Schools	I strongly urge you to consider keeping Full-Day kindergarten at the schools that already have it. This would have a negative financial impact on families who would have to pay for extended day care (the SACC Centers can not accommodate everyone) not to mention that our school test scores have gone up in reading since we added full-day Kindergarten a few years ago.
513	Schools	Question: I recently attended a community dialogue meeting about the budget. The school presentation said that schools are used more for community use than for instruction. Can you show how you arrived at that figure? Did you add up all the hours of community use at all the schools? Does this include PTA-sponsored school activities like school plays?
514	Schools	One of the most important programs we have in Fairfax County High Schools is the College and Career Center. It helps students focus on goals for college and life after high school, helps parents find financial resources to send kids to college, provides required testing services and transcripts, introduces our kids to hundreds of college admissions programs, and helps kids get into college who think they would never have the opportunity. It keeps FCPS in the forefront of excellence in education. Please do not touch this program with budget cuts. THIS is where I EXPECT my tax dollars to be spent.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
515	Schools	<p>I am a concerned parent and foreign language advocate and highly value and support the opportunity for our children to learn a second language. In addition to facilitating retention of the language, research shows that early language learning enhances basic skills in language arts, reading, and math and also improves test scores, cognitive development, memory, and cultural understanding. Additionally, FCPS student achievement goal 1.2 says that students should graduate with the ability to communicate in at least two languages. Both the Immersion and the FLES programs were selected to accomplish this goal for the majority of our elementary students. I think FCPS would be doing a grave disservice to take away both the Language Immersion and the FLES program that was designed to reach the majority of Fairfax County's elementary kids and enable them to learn a second language. It would be a huge step backward for FCPS to take away this program that has already taken years to implement. If our children lose this opportunity to learn a second language early on, most will never get the chance to be able to communicate in another language. I realize that it looks like you may need to cut \$170M from the budget, and even though the total cost for FLES and immersion represents a very small percentage overall, I understand that it is your obligation and your responsibility to look carefully at every FCPS program and service for cost savings. I know that several people at last year's public hearings specifically asked that FLES and Immersion programs be cut and that community dialogue meeting summaries indicated foreign language is viewed as non-essential. Unfortunately, I'm not sure that there is enough participation to accurately reflect the overall community based on 9 people saying they view FLES and 3 people saying they view language immersion as nonessential and willing to do without. I want to make you aware that there is a great deal of community support for these programs among parents who currently have children in them and those who do not. As you start setting your budget priorities, I hope you will not consider the feedback of just a few people as evidence that "the community" does not want these programs and would like to make a few other points regarding cutting these programs. 1. Cutting out the immersion program is not going to save the \$1.4 million listed in the budget. Those students will need to be taught math, science and health somewhere by someone. In addition, transportation will have to be provided (currently not provided for students outside of boundaries), a hidden, added cost of cutting the program. 2. The foreign language immersion program attracts people and businesses (and their tax revenue) to Fairfax County, which sets us apart from other counties in the Washington DC area. Global companies like Volkswagen/Audi and Hilton (their new HQ's will create &gt;400 and &gt;300 well paying jobs in the county, respectively) are drawn to Fairfax County for our great school system, of which language immersion is one of the crown jewels. 3. When making budget decisions, do not cut programs that are difficult/expensive to reinstate. Being bilingual is the future for our students. We will need to reinstate this program eventually and the costs to rebuild will be substantial. This is a large price to pay for a short-term saving of \$1.4M, which is only .06% of the entire school board budget. 4. Immersion programs should be considered part of general education, as stated in FCPS Student Achievement Goal 1.2 Communicate in at least Two Languages. It should not be viewed as a "nice to have". Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide input on this matter.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
516	Schools	I would like to state my support of the band, chorus, and orchestra programs. By removing the elementary piece of this curriculum, the middle school and eventually the high school programs would also wither. As current president of the McLean Band Parents Association, I am acutely aware of the superior instruction and the positive impact the program has on the nearly 200 band students at McLean High School. This award winning program is a source of pride for the school as well as the community and has provided students with opportunities for college scholarships and careers. Our band director, a FCPS grad, is a great example of the success of the county's music programs. It would be devastating to lose such a vital instructional tool after the many years spent building it to this exceptional level. The elementary level is the first building block and the foundation.
517	Schools	1) Please try to obtain grants from the Department of Education for the Foreign Language Programs in Fairfax County. Specifically, the Foreign Immersion Programs are irreplaceable providing an incredible learning opportunity for our children. Looking at the charts, a temporary band aid fund could see us through this time and prevent very costly restarting of the programs after the recession is over. 2) Please consider allowing the parents of Foreign Immersion Students to pay the extra until the recession is over. It is only about \$400 a student per year extra. This is an amazing deal for what we are getting. Foreign language is so precious in the global economic times. 3) Losing Immersion Programs will hurt the County monetarily for it is a big draw for many businesses and families to settle in this area. Thank you!
518	Schools	I would hope that you will reconsider any thoughts of reducing the budgets for music programs at public schools. These programs are very important for student's learning and development.
519	Schools	Please do not discontinue the FLEX, FLES and partial immersion language programs. These are reasons for the strategic investment: 1) commercial; the young students will become multilingual citizens able to better promote American interests in international markets; 2) military; multilingual members of the forces and reserves represent an asset; 3) cognitive; Fairfax County's Specialist of World Languages' Beatrix Preusse-Burr assured parents in her presentation on FLEX that learning a second language at a young age improved all cognitive abilities including mathematics and science.
520	County and Schools	I am strongly opposed to cutting funding to our schools, particularly foreign language programs and full day kindergarten. There must be other ways to cut expenses in the budget without sacrificing the quality education that Fairfax County is known for.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
521	Schools	FCPS should receive more funding from the state. We should not be penalized by the equalized payments system. The value of our real estate, public service corporations, AGI and retail sales are higher than other jurisdictions because of the hard work of our local Government and community. We should not be penalized for being more efficient than other jurisdictions. Every jurisdiction's school district should receive an equal percentage of funding from the state. Is the Governor's office responsible for the equalized payments system? Taxes/county fees should be raised to minimize the impact of the budget shortfall to our school system. However, the tax rate should not rise above that of our neighboring counties as we do not want to discourage business opportunities for the county. If services need to be cut in FY11, all efforts should be made to minimize the impact to our elementary schools. Foundational character development, self-esteem and education needs are met during the elementary years. We should cut back on some of the electives that are provided in our high schools or charge fees for some of our electives before we end vital programs like full-day kindergarten and increase the class sizes.
522	Schools	Please strongly consider saving the elementary school band and orchestra programs throughout Fairfax County. Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars now, but the total negative impact that will be felt for many, many years will far outweigh any short term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. Cutting these programs will drastically alter the excellent state of Fairfax County's music programs at all levels.
523	Schools	From a personal stand point, I was looking forward to moving my preschooler to Little Run Elementary next year. But can only do that if the full day Kindergarten program is continued. Right now she's in a private setting due to our work schedules. Little Run is an excellent school and I've been very pleased with the staff, as well as the level of attention given to her older sister (currently in 5th grade). It would be a shame to lose full day K, and to make my youngest wait another year to benefit from all that Little Run has to offer!
524	Schools	I have no children, and I have to suck up the fact that a vast majority of my tax dollars go towards a program I will never use. However, it's a no brainer to make sure that the county makes significant cuts in its management and admin costs before it does something punitive like cut language immersion programs. There's no reason to have new buildings and seventeen layers of middle management and secretaries for the administration of the schools. Let's see some transparent cuts in management and administration building expenses and I might take you seriously next time when you come around crying poor.



## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
525	Schools	Please, please, please do not take away full-day kindergarten. I have seen children in both full-day and half-day kindergarten and the difference is astonishing. Our school benefits so much from having its newest students receive a whole day of instruction to get them on the road to reading and succeeding in school. My youngest child (of 3) will be entering kindergarten in 2011. If the county goes to half-day kindergarten, I will most certainly put him in private full-day kindergarten and then transfer him to FCPS in first grade. I urge you to reconsider taking away full-day kindergarten.
526	County	My husband works for ATKearney, out of the office in Tysons. He and his coworkers have saved millions of dollars for companies like Tyco, Ford, BP, Hershey, Walmart, etc. Could you please approach them and ask them to look at the county's budget--as a pro bono project? I am involved with several county agencies, and each time I encounter an inefficiency (in operations, sourcing, duplication of efforts, etc.), I wish ATKearney would step in, show Fairfax County where we could save money while preserving services, and I think ATK would do it for the publicity (pro bono) the county could generate out of it.
527	County	I'm an organizer of a group that meets for free in the libraries. My group would feel comfortable with a small room rental fee. (Our alternative is to meet in a cafe of some sort, so we'd spend money on coffee and snacks there to feel entitled to tables and chairs. At least with the library we have a quieter atmosphere.) Also, I've heard great things about the library's Mystery Nights, done after-hours at a library branch. Have you considered hosting more Mystery Nights but charging a modest admission? Similarly, could groups rent out the library after-hours, for example, for a children's sleep-over party? It might sound strange, but it could become a money generator for the system.
528	Don't Know	Library- Tutor.com is a great resource for students. As the PTSA, VP at Robinson, I am constantly referring students and parents to this County resource. Would hate to see it go away.
529	Schools	As a parent of 3 school age children, I strongly object to budget proposals that would increase classroom size. Studies show that children learn and do much better in smaller classes. I also object to dropping the music orchestra/band programs from the elementary schools. However, I would support the addition of student fees to support extracurricular programs such as language, athletics, music, and drama.
530	County	Please do not make anymore cuts in library hours staff or services. I do not want to see it destroyed by these proposed cuts.
531	County and Schools	The county needs to refund FCPS the \$187M that it overpaid for NCLB during the 2002-2004 biennium. Also, the state should fund a higher % of FCPS costs. When determining the % amount each county should receive, it does not consider true values of real estate and public service corporations, adjusted gross income and taxable retail sales, which are higher in Fairfax than other jurisdictions. If, after these adjustments are made, cuts still need to happen in FCPS, DO NOT cut elementary language programs. Being bilingual is the future and the eventual reinstatement of such programs will be costly. These programs draw people and businesses (and their tax revenue) to Fairfax County. It will save only a small amount of money, but it will be destroying one of the crown jewels of FCPS and making it just another school system.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
532	Schools	Please do not cut school band programs. These are great programs for elementary to high school students and are not really that expensive. In high school programs in particular, vibrant band associations raise a lot of money for their programs (I know our band program raises at least 10 times the money that the county gives to our school for band). Band is a year round program and promotes academic achievement (kids who find the discipline to practice their instruments often find the discipline for academics). Budget cuts are very hard to do, but please do not cut the band programs.
533	County and Schools	Immersion programs should not be cut. They are too important to the child and their educations. Just the confidence my child has gained is immeasurable.
534	Schools	Elementary music education is critical not only for the growth and development of our children K-6 but also for the success of our high school band and orchestra programs. Without a healthy feeder program, those high school programs will fade away. Music programs have been shown to be linked to higher SATs and better than average grades.
535	Don't Know	REQUEST TO EDIT A PREVIOUS SUBMISSION: I sent a submission earlier today without realizing that the format would be public instead of being sent to officials. May I re-write the submission before it is considered for posting as it contains my children's name?
536	County and Schools	As a husband of a Fairfax County Public School teacher and a parent with three children attending a FCPS elementary school I am very concerned with the FY 2011 budget. First and foremost is the concern that my wife could be laid-off. She has 14 years in FCPS and loves her job. Currently, she is a kindergarten teacher at Fort Belvoir ES. This is a full-day kindergarten. I can tell you that the full-day kindergarten program is a successful program. Why - well my son who now is in first-grade has benefited from this program. If he and other kids have not benefitted from full-day kindergarten I really believe he (they) would be having a harder time adjusting. Now we can now focus on budgeting for full-day kindergarten. Drop Driver's Ed - sell the country driver-ed cars. No more salary increases for Mr. Dale and other high officials. No more official county cars for personal use. Just to let you know if my wife is laid-off - we lose our home. We are life-long residents. Raise some taxes for the school system - do something - we have to face this - we do not want to destroy families lives.
537	County and Schools	The FCPS system can cut Thomas Jefferson Science school in order to save on its budget. There is no need for these students to be specially transported to this school. If parents want their children to attend a special school - have them pay for it - not me. This seems a logical choice to cut.
538	Schools	Would not cut music programs, as right brain function is likely to be the way of the future, see Daniel Pink's 2008 commencement speech listed below. <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdD_h3i99pI">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdD_h3i99pI</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BauFlpkvbxQ">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BauFlpkvbxQ</a>
539	Schools	Music programs = higher Math scores, cutting music is a bad idea.

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Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
540	Schools	Rather than cut band and orchestra programs at the Elementary schools, reduce the number of times a student attends band and orchestra class from weekly to twice monthly. Fairfax County is known throughout the country for our outstanding music programs. By eliminating the band and orchestra programs completely from the elementary schools we will reduce the number of students who participate at the middle and high school thus weakening a nationally recognized program that makes Fairfax County Public Schools exceptional.
541	Schools	Cannot remember what classroom topics were covered in elementary school, but can remember ALL of the songs performed in Chorus, Band and Orchestra, so that must be the most important thing in ES. Cutting music programs is a bad idea.
542	County and Schools	The current budgetary shortfall is transient. Decisions with long-term effects should be avoided. Instead, any potential cuts should be focused on things that can be reversed quickly should the expected occur and the economy (and County revenues) return to nearly prior levels before the end of the next budget year. What should be done in the long term is implementation of an income tax in Fairfax County. This can be done on a revenue-neutral basis. After that, when asset values fall while incomes remain constant or, as in this community of government workers actually increase, the income tax base for County revenues would increase to maintain revenues sufficient to provide the needed services. The current economic crisis has not affected most of Fairfax County's working residents. Government salaries have actually increase by as much as ten percent in the last two years, while County revenues have fallen due to falling housing prices. County residents must pay for County services, and this should
543	Schools	Eliminate or at least greatly curtail the number of field trips. We would save money on substitutes and on transportation costs.
544	County and Schools	Please keep as much money in the school budget as possible. The excellent school system is what makes Fairfax County a desirable area. If our school budget is pillaged, the Fairfax County Public Schools will decline, and so will our home values--even more so. Only currently the decline due to the economy will eventually correct itself, whereas if you pillage the school budget, you could cause damage that can not be repaired. Consider making cuts to the Park System. Although, my family loves the Fairfax County Park System, I consider the quality of our schools essential, and the parks a luxury. Close parks if necessary, full time or opening only certain days of the week. Start charging fees to enter parks. Charge higher fees for services. The bottom line is that the schools are an essential service. Please cut the budget from any other area first before touching the school budget.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
545	Schools	Why is it that when budget cuts are on the table, one of the first things scrapped is money for the arts? I hear now that elementary music programs are on the chopping block which would obviously have adverse affects in years to come on the middle and high school music program. Less children would have the opportunity to be introduced to an instrument or to sing in an ensemble, leading to less children in ensembles in the middle and high school level. The most dramatic change would be that many of these children would grow up with little or no musical experience except perhaps what they ingest on their ipods, etc. How narrow that experience! Are we not interested in developing the whole individual? Are we just interested in the physical exercise and development of our children through PE and extra-curricular sports? Are we just interested in having our children excel in math and science disciplines to get better test grades and "beat the competition"? And the list goes on . . . Music, and I would argue any artistic venture (i.e. theatre, art, dance, etc.), is important as an artistic outlet, a venue for our children to express themselves, another step in developing the whole individual to be a productive, happy adult in later years. What more can you ask for?
546	Schools	Try to keep the integrity of the classroom and needs based staffing intact. Keep class sizes down as much as possible. As a teacher and as a parent of two who have gotten much from extracurricular activities, I still want the classroom instruction in the core areas to come first. I can supplement our lives with other things outside of school. (Also spreads wealth around to small businesses other organizations) I can't supplement quality core area teaching as easily. If things are dire, keep class size low, keep vital teachers, cut others. Alert the world of our cuts so that colleges know that opportunities/offerings were low for students. Then our students won't take back seat to those schools that could offer all activities. Sports should take hits too. I love football/baseball and my kids are in sports, but I need chemistry, math, science, reading, english even language needs taken care of first. Protect special ed/ ESOL/remediation/transitions services, career supports... Maybe career supports will be cut back, but try to keep some services. Keep staffing high, teacher/student ratio low. (esp. in special needs.) This is sound educational philosophy and we know it!... Why would we put our education mission in jeopardy? Hard time....hard choices. Good luck.
547	Schools	Good school system is the only reason we live in this county. Any budget cut to the current schools will only lower the quality of education. It will be hard to keep our investments here if the school quality is lower than it is right now. In order to keep the Fairfax county a great place for living, none of the following should happen to our county school. Like: class size increases, teacher cuts, elimination of full day kindergarten in all but Title I schools, busing cuts, focus programs, language programs, and shortening the school year.
548	Schools	I strongly encourage the county to preserve educational programs targeted at enhancing the abilities of students to compete in the global environment. The language immersion program is an exemplar. I feel that too often we cut programs aimed at furthering our most talented children to balance with programs targeting niche dynamics like education programs for pregnant teens, teens in reform programs, et al. We should reward positive choices, not enable those who make poor choices at the expense of talented children.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
549	County and Schools	Do not cut the ES music programs. These music programs are fiscally a "drop in the bucket" when compared to the amount of money which needs to be saved. It seems that the kids who continue to be penalized for Fairfax County's poor fiscal management are the kids of the parents who pay the taxes, and it needs to stop. Practical solutions can be found but Supervisors and School Board members seem to put politics before our kids. Maybe cuts need to be made OUTSIDE of the schools such as at the Taj Mahal at Gatehouse and other administrative sites. Yes, that means cutting jobs and cutting salaries of administrators and administrative staff who are not on the front line teaching our children. In addition, the amount of money that is continually spent on labeling an inordinate number of children as "Special Needs" and the concomitant price tag which follows has to be stopped. There are students who do need the additional support, but the county does not seem to have a backbone to limit the number of labeled students. Taxpayers are tired of watching their children suffer due to political agendas and the needs of a few. Cutting the music programs at the ES level will not be tolerated.
550	County and Schools	keep the music it pays for college and broadens the mind helps develop fine motor skills and makes kids use the memory skill it is more important than you think. Mother of 3 kids on music scholarships.
551	Schools	Cutting the elementary school orchestra and band program is foolish and detrimental to all children. Providing young children of all economic backgrounds with the opportunity to learn and participate in making music together has far reaching impacts on these children. It enhances their learning, allows children of all economic levels and learning styles to learn together, and promotes an interest in one of the arts that they may not otherwise have. Additionally, it promotes self-esteem. All of this comes at a small cost, which may be offset by not having to spend money on intervention activities for children that may be experiencing difficulties at home.
552	Schools	I have heard that one of the ideas to save money is to cut the music program in the elementary and middle schools. This would be a big mistake. It is proven that students that participate in music do better in math and other sciences. A well rounded person as an adult starts as a child--you can not expect older people to participate or appreciate music and the arts if they have not had a chance to experience and participate as a child.
553	Schools	Please do NOT cut foreign language programs from the schools. This is what attracted our family to Fairfax County public schools. By mastering a language (and culture) in their youth, our children become better prepared to interact successfully in the world community of tomorrow. FLES and partial-immersion programs are key! And they set Fairfax Public Schools apart from other public schools I have seen.
554	County	Eliminate the evening counselor position at Beacon Hill Group Home. The counselor reports to work at 8PM, dispenses about two medications, and retires to the office to rest for her night position at Pathways. The county could save money by hiring permanent relief counselors to provide coverage.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
555	County	Do we really still need Security Awareness Day? That seems to be a lot of staff time spent planning for information that can be imparted online through videos so all staff can watch, not just the select few that can attend. It seems tawdry in these tough budget days that we're spending so much time and money on this day. Even Mr. Griffin is spending time on it through his e-mails when he should probably be focused on other things. I'm not saying it's an unimportant topic, but there have to be better ways to share information about it and reduce the amount of staff time -- DIT, FMD and all attending employees -- that could be spent working on other things. Also, I went one year and a lot of money went toward bags and trinkets and T-shirts for the staff who worked. I sure hope that's ended.
556	County	Allow those individuals 3to 5 years before retirement to retire. Hire new-hires at the lower end of the pay scale and reinstate the annual 5% raise. Employees are reaching the higher end of the pay scale too soon. Stop cronyism. Reduction in site supervisor in the residential programs.
557	County	I believe that shortening the hours or closing the county libraries will have a negative impact on the students of Fairfax County. It is essential, especially on the weekends, that the libraries remain open. Students need the incentive to obtain information through book research, rather than finding the information on-line. Reading books also is important. Reading expands the child's imagination, increases their vocabulary (which helps with the dreaded SAT's), and minimizes their time spent on computer games, etc. It also teaches them to find information through the library system and using the Dewey Decimal System. Let's face it, most students neglect their homework/reports, that are due, until the weekend and if the library is closed, what do they do??
558	County	Why not do a couple furlough days when there are 3 pay periods in the month? It will hurt less.
559	County	Cutting longevity steps for employees is a sure way to destroy morale.
560	Schools	I am worried about the cut of the Band and String programs. I am asking you do not cut any level of these programs. The elementary level is important for them to move on the middle school level. Please do not cut this vital program.
561	Schools	Close Tomas Jefferson High School, Get rid of drivers ED. Sell the cars. Get rid of computers in elementary schools, I didn't have them and I am fine. Sell the computers. Get rid of buses for the GT schools. Get your act together and save teacher positions, that's what is important.
562	Schools	Do not cancel the Foreign Language immersion program. I have 3 children in the program and find it very enriching. I would give up transportation so it could stay.
<b>Added October 29, 2009</b>		
563	County and Schools	I think it would be too bad to eliminate the language immersion programs from the schools, Our children are behind many countries in their language skills. Our children need to know more than one language in today's world.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
564	Schools	Do not change the schedule on Full Day Kindergarten. Many of Fairfax County's preschoolers have been in Full day schooling for years before Kindergarten. This will be a financial burden for taxpayers to go back to paying for daycare. For me, putting kindergartners in half day again actually yields a tax loss to the county because the money that will be spent at daycare after school or by having parents stay home one more year could have been discretionary spending for families. Don't go back to the way it was. It took years and lots of dollars to get here! Stay on target and don't throw that investment away! It will cost us more in the long run. Class sizes in elementary schools should be kept as is, particularly in the younger grades (K-3) Older grades can handle larger classes as the kids become more independent. Possible options: Could extended learning programs, band and strings in elementary school, and other similar opportunities in elementary schools be provided on a fee based system with an activity fee that would support some of all of the cost, and then have a threshold with financial aid?
565	County and Schools	I am concerned that the county will not be able to provide Music & Arts program due to budget cuts. This program is important to our children's development and focus and concentration. Please find cuts elsewhere...
566	Schools	please do not eliminate school music programs. My child a junior in high school now has had the benefit of a musical education and I can't tell you how much that has impacted her. There is so much that a music education offers that develops the whole person and really, we should be looking at ways to make it mandatory rather than cutting it out. Please don't eliminate.
567	Schools	After reading some of the proposed changes to save money in FY 2011,I would ask that you NOT eliminate the elementary school band and strings programs. These are wonderful programs that start our students on the road to excellence in music. The adverse impact would be greatest on those who cannot afford music lessons outside of the schools! As a parent of a preschooler, elementary schooler, and a middle schooler I would rather return to half-day kindergarten than have the music programs cut. Time is spent during a full-day kindergarten on rest time, lunch and additional play time; I would be happy to send my 4 year to a half day kindergarten and let her rest, eat and play at home! Thank you for your time!
568	Schools	Please do not dismantle Fairfax elementary language programs without providing parents, students and stakeholders the opportunity to provide the capital to self-fund. Second language stakeholders include businesses that demand bilingual employees in order to compete in international markets, and military and diplomatic institutions. Please note that the partial-immersion programs enable students to speak a second language without an accent--the disciplined youngsters who undertake the challenge of learning Spanish, Japanese or French represent a strategic investment that will yield dividends to society.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
569	Schools	In making needed budget cuts, please please do not eliminate band and orchestra programs from the elementary schools in the county. These programs provide our students with a solid base to build music skills. Music is a valuable addition to our curriculum and every child should have an opportunity to develop these skills while they are young. Band and orchestra programs allow young students the best opportunity to immerse themselves in the benefits of music instruction. If these programs were eliminated, it would be a very sad day for Fairfax County Public Schools.
570	Schools	KEEP FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN FOR EVERYONE. WE ALL NEED TO LEARN EARLY NOT JUST THE DISADVANTAGED.
571	County and Schools	Please continue the Japanese Immersion Program (JIP) at GFES. We have two students who have thrived in the program, and we plan to enroll another when he reaches 1st grade. This program truly delivers enormous educational returns on the investment. For example, we were delighted with the extensive language skills our 5th grader demonstrated in Japan this summer. Those skills are directly attributable to the program; our family has no background in Japanese. As you know, the best time to teach language is in elementary school. If we really want our children to be ready to compete with confidence and success in the global economy, we must find a way to carve out funding for this program. When we complete surveys on our satisfaction with the FCPS system, the JIP program ALWAYS influences our positive perception of the services provided to our children. The loss of this program would produce far-reaching and negative consequences for our children's future. This is a difficult, challenging
572	County	Fairfax County Music -Orchestra/Band Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars now, but the total negative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. Starting music at a young age is so important. Please do not cut the county cut music programs.
573	Schools	Outrageous! Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars now, but the total negative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short term savings. Both my daughters participate in the music program and have since 4th grade. My oldest is a freshman and my youngest is in 8th grade. They play violin and viola and the progress they've made is outstanding! To say the music program is a success is an understatement. It is one of the best programs the county offers. I best most parents would be willing to pay for the music program, and those that can't afford it would probably be willing to volunteer in someone just to keep the program going. Please don't minimize the importance of music in school. It builds confidence, self-esteem, logical thinking, camaraderie, and culture. Let's not push Fairfax County schools lower in quality and education. We used to be number one, now where are we.



## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
574	Schools	Please do not make the horrendous mistake of cutting the language immersion program from our schools. This will be a huge detriment to the children, the schools, the county and the country. I find it appalling at how far behind the US is at learning second languages. Every student should be studying a foreign language, from a young age. Not only because it makes our children smarter, but because it makes them better suited to succeed in the world. Knowing a second language not only makes it easier to learn a third and fourth, but it will open up their opportunities immensely. I do not understand how cutting the immersion programs will save very much money from the budget. Those children and teachers do not disappear. The children will still be placed in their base schools which will/may require more teachers, and possibly more buses, because currently immersion parents drive their own students. Perhaps we can solicit corporate sponsorship from companies that need foreign language speakers. This kind of relationship could foster internships for high school and college students who have benefited from the program - a way to give something back. Is it really worth cutting a small program that greatly changes lives, for a minimal amount of money? A program that has taken years to form and is supported and appreciated by many. Once it's gone, we may never get it back. If we work together, we can save it.
575	Schools	Please don't cut the full day kindergarten programs that are in most schools. Our children need to be well-prepared before entering 1st grade. If we hope to keep up with other countries, we have to keep our schools strong.
576	Schools	On behalf of my children, one of whom has been heavily involved in school orchestra since she was an elementary school student (she is now in high school), I implore the Fairfax County school board members vote to continue to support bands and orchestras in elementary schools. Music has played a vital role in my children's success, both as students and citizens. Through band and orchestra, my children have learned to be responsible, conscientious students and citizens. They have learned the value of being part of a cohesive team, and, when afforded the opportunity, have also learned to shine as individuals. I ask that you seriously consider maintaining the elementary bands and orchestras. These programs have opened doors for my children, to include entry into college and scholarships. Their passion for music has extended to all aspects in their lives.
577	Schools	Dear school board, As a fcps teacher and parent of two school age children, I am aware that there are limitations in the budget. One of my children is in the French Immersion program at Kent Gardens Elementary and the other child will enter it next year. It is a wonderful program and I feel that it should not be cut. The immersion programs are essential to making FCPS an exceptional school system.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
578	Schools	Fairfax County is known for its good schools. It's one reason we chose to live in Fairfax County versus Alexandria City. Before the students & teachers are any more affected by the budget cuts, I'd like to see the school board really clear out all non-essential spending, like stop reimbursing for internet expenses, stop handing out blackberries, insist on less wasteful measures in the offices. The amount of paper I see my local school waste is obscene. I'd also like to see all FCPS employees rigorously evaluated and all ineffectual employees removed... from office staff to teachers. With all the workers in the market today, it is ridiculous that sub-par employees are kept on staff. The teachers and the curriculum at FCPS schools are what makes the schools so special. We take pride in the fact that our children get PE, music, and art multiple times a week. We love that our school has resource teachers, such as a math and reading specialist. These services are invaluable for raising well-rounded successful children. I hope these are the last things to be cut. In my opinion the first things to be cut are the things that do not benefit ALL FCPS students such as: summer school intercessions pupil placement busing to schools outside your neighborhood ES foreign language I am surprised to hear that full day K is at risk. FCPS has been promoting the benefits of full day K for years. Our local school switched to full day K 2 years ago, the year my own children started school. The teachers have marveled at how much more their students have learned with full day K and how much more relaxed and less overwhelming the full day K environment has been for the students.
579	Schools	Participation in Band and Orchestra participation boosts math and reading scores! Don't cut them from Fairfax County schools. These programs are outstanding value for the quality of musical education they provide!
580	Schools	I want to preserve the French Immersion program at Herndon Elementary school. I have three children enrolled in the program. I would be willing to pay a fee of a thousand dollars or more per child in order for them to remain in the program, if that's what it took.
581		When considering budget cuts, we encourage you to make your decisions based on what is best for the students. Rather than cutting the sports teams, which affects many students' lives, it makes more sense to cut administrative costs at a higher level where the students aren't directly affected. Putting sports teams on the chopping block, upsets students and parents and creates a dark cloud over the competitors and each and every competition of the season. We support raising activity fees for competitors, leaving it up to the students and their families to decide whether to participate or fundraise if finances are an issue.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
582	County and Schools	I was greatly dismayed to read that FCPS is considering eliminating the elementary school band and strings programs. These ES programs are an amazing opportunity for children from all walks of life, many of whom might not otherwise ever learn to play any musical instrument. The return on investment in the ES Band and String programs extends considerably beyond the immediate classes: participation in elementary-aged Band/Strings groups has been demonstrated to improve an ES student's performance in core subjects such as math and language arts/reading; it facilitates development of focus and self-discipline; and it builds a sense of personal accomplishment, teamwork, and creative collaboration as surely as any athletic team endeavor. I would be willing to pay higher real estate taxes, if that would allow FCPS to keep the Band/Strings programs in all the FC schools, especially in the Elementary Schools. The availability of structured ES programs such as Band/Strings is one of the reasons why FCPS remains one of the best school systems in the country. Please don't cut this vibrant and worthwhile program.
583	County and Schools	Save Teaching Jobs - Focus on Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Close Thomas Jefferson - taxpayers pay for bussing them to school. They can go to regular High School. Stop Driver's Ed - sell the cars used for Driver's Ed. Remove computer curriculum in elementary school - sell the computers in those classes. Keep full-day kindergarten program - from experience this program works - gives kids a head start for First Grade. Remove preschool program from Elementary School. Not necessary. Follow Stafford County where teaching assistant works between two classrooms. Principals and others who have enough time for retirement - RETIRE them - why continue to pay a principal \$100,000 or more when you can hire a new one at lower cost - same goes as a teacher with over 20 years - mandatory retirement - hire younger for less pay.
584	Schools	To Whom It May Concern, I'm so saddened to hear that the School Board is considering cutting music from the elementary schools, this would be a very bad mistake. As a parent of a 9th grader at West Potomac High School, I find this information really sad. My son has really benefited from the music program beginning in 4th grade, he now participates in the marching band program and is doing Algebra 2, as you may know there is a correlation between math and music!! So for our kids sake please find another alternative to save money, A very concerned Fairfax County Tax payer.
585	Schools	Cut back on use of school owned cars that administrators use. I have seen one administrator use "company" car to pick up children to and from after school activities.
586	Schools	I presently have 3 children in FCPS, my 4th in college majoring in Music. The music foundation (in strings and band) he received in elementary school here in Fairfax County is what motivated him to continue on at higher levels. He is not athletic, his talent lies in the arts, specifically in music. Band and Strings, at the elementary school level is THE niche for many students not talented in sports. DO NOT cut elementary band or strings...math skills, interpersonal communication, focus, discipline, camaraderie and a great feeling of self worth are enhanced in these music programs at this age, not to mention the gift of music they give back to us at concerts.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
587	County	Time to get serious about cutting the budget! Salaries are not going up. Taxpayers are tired of hearing about tax increases. Cut the county budgets, cut the school budgets. Property values are going down, real estate taxes need to go down.
588	Schools	I think music is an important part of educating the whole child. Please do not cut the music programs at the any level in the school programs. Let's keep up with other countries that are so much older than ours and already know the importance of music in raising the level of education with our children.
589	Schools	Keep the FLES program alive! It's one of the most important investments we can make in our children's learning, and will have big payouts in a strong workforce when these kids graduate with two languages. Keep the program going, please!!!
590	County and Schools	SBTS Reduction in Force Proposal for SY 2010-2011: The SBTS (called ITRT in some other counties) in a school directly impacts student learning and should not be under consideration for any reduction. Without the SBTS, this data driven county initiatives - such as eCart Assessments, 24/7 Blackboard Communication, SOL's on line, Elementary School Global Awareness Project, New Grade Card Reporting systems for the Elementary School, Training Classes for staff so they can keep up with the new technology that FCPS purchases and expects them to use, (and the list goes on), will not move forward or at worst will fail. FCPS is the reason residents and business move here and stay here, and without the SBTS impacting student and adult learning in all grades levels, the claim of a World Class Education will be lost. When that happens, the economic impact of people moving elsewhere will be devastating. Every Supervisor and School Board member should visit a school to see exactly how the SBTS impacts learning and as
591	County	I cannot honestly believe Fairfax County is even CONSIDERING cutting music programs. If The County still wants to continue to keep their high academic ranking, Music and Arts should be mandatory not elective.
592	Schools	Why Not Cut ESL???
593	Schools	My daughter is in her third year of the French Immersion Program at Herndon Elementary School. In debating whether to put her into a public school or private school in Fairfax County, a significant draw to the public school was the French Immersion Program. As a Foreign Service Office at the U.S. Department of State, I am very cognizant of the value of learning multiple languages and of the benefits of immersion-style teaching over the traditional reading/writing approach. I am very concerned to hear that Fairfax County is considering eliminating the Language Immersion Program due to budget cuts and would like to emphasize my strong support for maintaining this program. It is one of the factors contributing the high standard of learning in the Fairfax County Schools, which sets them apart from other areas in the region, and was a definite draw for us in determining where to live when we returned from Turkey. Thank you for your consideration.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
594	Schools	I understand that the Language Immersion programs are being looked at as a potential place to make cuts. As a parent who has two children in the program at Herndon Elementary I must say that Fairfax needs to look elsewhere. These language immersion programs are vital to ensuring that our children excel. Everyday we hear about how we are falling behind the rest of the world in math, reading and yes, language skills. Lets not cut those things that work, better yet, lets look to the programs we fund that fail time and time again and make cuts there.
595	Schools	There is a proposed plan to cut School Based Technology Specialists position by 50% and that will be the greatest mistake. Fairfax County Public Schools is known for it's world class education and draws businesses and people from all over the country to it. SBTS are the driving force supporting instruction at the school level in all aspects integrating 21st century skills to produce a 21st century student/worker. Please keep them full time in every school building especially at a time students are competing at a GLOBAL level!! Thank you very much

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
596	Schools	<p>Proposed SBTS Reduction in Force Proposal for SY 2010-2011: I am highly concerned about the proposed cuts in the number of School Based Technology Specialists (also known as ITRT in some other counties) in the FCPS proposed budget for SY 2010-2011. I believe that this position in a school directly impacts student learning and should not be under consideration for any reduction. The SBTS supports the county's data driven initiatives, such as the 5th grade Global Awareness Technology Project, the FCPS 24/7 online communication tool, eCart assessments, SOLs on line, the new Grade Card Reporting systems for the elementary schools, and so much more! SBTS provide training for staff for all the new and existing technology software, hardware, and online initiatives. Without the training and troubleshooting support from the SBTS, I truly believe these initiatives would not be successful. FCPS is the reason residents and business move here and stay here. In fact, the high quality of education that FCPS provides is the reason I moved here to start a family. However, without the SBTS impacting student and adult learning in all grades levels, the claim of a World Class Education will be lost. When that happens, you can only imagine the economic impact that this will have on our county. I cannot overemphasize the critical role that the SBTS plays at a school. Just last year I was a 3rd grade teacher. From the perspective of a teacher, I would not have been able to fully provide the highest quality of instruction to my students without the support of my SBTS. I understand one of the proposals on the table is to cut the position by half or more, leaving schools to share an SBTS. Having an SBTS in a building part time defeats the purpose. They will not be able to support instruction and will be doing little more than putting out technology related fires. Teachers will often be left to resolve their own technology problems and will be lack the support and training they need. Becoming frustrated when the technology isn't working, they will simply stop using it. If anyone thinks this is a viable solution, they are content to take FCPS backward as the rest of the world moves forward. I urge you to take the time to talk with principals and teachers to see how the SBTS impacts student and teacher learning and the daily operation of the school. Please do not rely solely on the information from the community dialogue meetings. Many teachers haven't attended because they are swamped and don't have the extra time. Find out first hand from the teachers and administration how much they rely on the SBTS. I fear that most parents and school board members do not understand the critical role that the SBTS plays in each school. If cuts are made to this position, you may find out all too late how vital the SBTS is to maintaining the first class education for which Fairfax County has been known. FCPS needs all of its STBS! The SBTS equips students and teachers with 21st century skills. Without this position, Fairfax County-and all its students-will be left behind. Thank you for your consideration of my ideas!</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
597	County	Another year without pay increases will adversely impact those that make Fairfax County what it is. How can you freeze pay and yet increase health insurance premiums and real estate taxes? As a police officer, I am one of few to live in the county and am proud to do so; however, it is becoming harder and harder. I moved here for the position and its opportunities which are all being taken away. I know all cuts are hard and don't envy your position, however lets not forget your employees who keep the county running, educate your children and protect you. Let's continue to be an ideal employer in addition to an ideal community and treat our employees as such. Please maintain your commitment to pay for performance and cost of living adjustments. We cannot go another year without them and with cost increases.
598	Schools	I am a parent with a daughter in the German Immersion program at Orange Hunt and my son will begin next year. My daughter is in 2nd grade and is flourishing in the program. It is an outstanding program. My husband is in the military and we have forfeited other superior job offers in order to keep her in the program. This is truly a program that will have unsurpassed benefits for the long term not just for our children, but globally as well when these kids, our future, enter the job markets. The number of needed teachers will not decrease by cutting the program. I am sure that the Orange Hunt community would be willing to due fund raisers to help with funding, this is something parents are extremely passionate about. Do not let this well established, fantastic program die.
599	Schools	I am strongly against cutting the budget for the music programs in FCPS. My son started playing the saxophone in elementary and participated every year through 12th grade. The band was a constant in his life; a support group and a "family". He excelled in music; was a leader in the marching band, Jazz band and Wind Ensemble. He was an excellent student--took 7 AP classes and exams for which he received 13 college credits; won academic and music award and is a delightful, well-adjusted, happy person with many friends. He graduated as a valedictorian and was accepted to The College of William and Mary on early admission. I believe his grounding in the music program contributed very much to his success both personally and academically. These kids learns discipline, they learn team work; they learn time management skills since they had a very heavy practice and performance schedule. They become a family which stays together for 8 years, from 5th through 12th grade. Parents are very involved in the band which creates a support group for all the kids; we look after each other. These kids compete both as a group and individually. Their band teachers are both teachers and mentors. You just don't hear of band members being "trouble makers". They are bright and busy., and they LOVE it. Oh, and the MUSIC. You just wouldn't think they were only high school. BUT, if you get rid of elementary school programs, kids will be far less likely to join in middle school and when they do they'll be just starting out. The quality of the band--think of those great half-time shows and all the awards your schools have won in state competitions--will be so downgraded that no one will really want to listen to them. It takes years to become a great musician. Unfortunately, you have to go through 2 or 3 of those years where you "suffer" through it. I'm sure you've have a child learning the drums or trumpet or violin, piano, etc. and wondered if they'd ever get better. They do. And it's a joy to listen to them; but if we take

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		away 5th and 6th grade--or more, believe me no child in 8th grade and above will ever want to embarrass themselves by starting an instrument. They are having enough problems "fitting" in at this point. We will be dooming the music programs (I'm talking about what I know-the band- but it applies to orchestra and choir as well) to mediocrity at best and taking away one of life's greatest and lasting pleasure for our kids; to make music.
600	Schools	I'm really concerned about the proposal to cut elementary string programs. My child's experience with elementary strings was so positive that it made all the difference in his education. How can you have high school orchestras if you don't have elementary strings. The fine arts are the finest thing Fairfax County Schools do. Please keep string education at the elementary level--increase my taxes if you need to, but don't cut this critical part of children's education.
601	County and Schools	Obviously, the politician (s) involved in the proposed cut, are not educated in the effect that the music programs have on the students' math and science abilities. There is valid research available on this and it needs to be a part of whatever legislation is being presented!!
602	Schools	I feel very strongly that full day kindergarten has been great for the children who have it, and I hope that you won't go back to half-day in the school that are already full-day. I have a kindergartner this year who is in a full day program and thriving. There are so many things she is able to do that her counterparts in a half day program are not able to. With another child going to kindergarten in 2010, I hope she will get the same experience.
603	County and Schools	Keep the foreign language immersion programs!! They work by making our children fluent in other languages, which America desperately needs to foster cultural understanding -- and to compete. To remove these programs when America needs more of this type of education, not less, would be a major mistake. Language immersion programs are not a luxury, they're a necessity. They have been proven to be the best way to learn a language, time and again.
604	Schools	Music programs provide an important cultural component to our community. They are educational. I think you should cut athletics before cutting educational programs.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
605	County and Schools	I am appalled to read that Fx Co is proposing to cut all band/orchestra activities for elementary schools. We moved to Fx Co in 1999 because of the good schools here. We have stayed -- despite opportunities to move overseas to work -- because our son benefits so much from band -- currently at JEB Stuart. He started playing violin at Glen Forest ES and that touched off a great love of music and collaborative effort. He took up trumpet at Glasgow MS and still plays trumpet in the Stuart marching band. Since moving to Stuart HS he has learned the tuba, euphonium and trombone which he still plays in the concert band and jazz band. This is such an important aspect of a well rounded education and it may well be critical to begin at elementary school -- a critical window may have closed by the time children reach middle school. The amount that will be saved (\$7m) through cutting band/orchestra from elementary education is such a small saving in the overall budget -- contributing such a small proportion to the \$162 million shortfall -- that I urge FxCo to reconsider! My son has benefited immeasurably from Band -- please allow the future generations of FxCo elementary students to do the same!
606	Schools	Please do not cut the foreign language programs in Fairfax County. They are a wonderful program for the children in the immersion programs and well as in general ed. So much time and work has gone into creating such a great program and it would be very difficult to re-start once the economy improves. Thank you.
607	Schools	It is unconscionable that the language programs are on the chopping block. The immersion programs are shining achievements of FCPS. My daughter is in second grade and in the Japanese Immersion program at Fox Mill. It is INCREDIBLE how much she learned in one year. To eliminate valuable programs that make Fairfax County Public Schools stand out from the rest is doing the community a disservice. Children are more apt to learn and RETAIN language in elementary school, and immersion programs create fluent speakers, readers, and global thinkers. Please leave our beloved immersion programs in the school!
608	Schools	Please keep band in the elementary schools! My children would be lost without band!
609	Schools	Social work services are not vital to school system operations. Family Histories, Vineland Reports, Neediest Kids Applications, Social Service Referrals, and Crisis Management can be provided by other groups, such as counselors and psychologists. What is needed are clinical resource providers who can directly support the educational needs of children in a school setting using multiple skill sets. Create a new replacement position that applies a fresh approach toward serving students with special needs. FCPS needs a more contemporary solution - not revamped answers that amount to the same, old thing.
610	Schools	It would be irresponsible of the county to do away with all elementary school band and orchestra programs. This is a false economy both because of music's demonstrated positive effect on learning overall and its intangible but significant impact on children in terms of personal responsibility and creativity. It is an especially repellent proposal for a county with such a highly-regarded educational system.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
611	Schools	School Social Work: The Death of a Profession What is being witnessed is an entire profession that is now obsolete. The services these clinicians provide are basic and elementary, capable to being delivered by most professional groups. No matter how much protest is given, this fact remains. FCPS needs a new approach to meeting the exceptional needs of students. Abolish school social work practice. Come up with a new type of position that can essentially accomplish the same thing plus a whole lot more. Concentrate on educational programs and services. Eliminate clinical senior, coordinator, and management positions. Search for new vision to meet new realities.
612		Please keep the music programs in our schools!
613	Schools	Too Little. Too Late. School social work leadership has sealed their own fate. They have behaved elitist and territorial, which has essentially resulted in a stunted profession that has little value for the school system. Now, during this critical economic downturn, they are scurrying to find ways to justify their existence in the schools. It is too little, too late. Clinical administrators have taken far too much from the school system without replenishing the well. Hefty paychecks without appropriate educational backgrounds and training have led to leadership that cannot deliver strong solutions that will meet student needs in a changing world. Let us stop wasting tax dollars and use our resources wisely. Get rid of senior social workers, coordinators, and managers.
614	Schools	Please do not cut music programs from elementary schools. My daughter started her musical education in elementary school, which led to her placement in advanced orchestra in middle school. She was invited to "pupil place" at Stuart HS, when geographically she would have gone to Annandale. At Stuart she participated in orchestra, but really blossomed and matured when she became active in Marching Band. There is no reason to believe she would have had this positive experience if she had not started her musical study in 2nd grade.
615	Schools	I was aghast to hear that the County is considering eliminating elementary school band and orchestra. My music education -- beginning in elementary school -- was more important to my development and career preparation than most other areas of study. My children are benefiting significantly from their elementary school instrumental music program. Please look elsewhere for savings, and retain this essential part of elementary school for our children.
616	Schools	Please do not eliminate the full-day kindergarten programs. I do believe that the public would be willing to pay an increase in real estate tax to ensure that programs like full-day K as well as foreign language immersion and other programs that allow the county to provide world class education that support our future do not get cut.
617	County	15 percent pay cut across the board - downsize every agency and create an immediate surplus because it is going to get worse
618	Schools	Consider making cuts at TOP administrative level before cutting full day kindergarten, elementary band and strings, and foreign language. Make cuts from top down (administration) instead of bottom up (elementary).

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
619	Schools	With changes in social work services, there needs to be an educational commitment to three groups: 1. Those who plan to retire in the next few years. 2. Those who wish to leave the profession and serve the school system in a different capacity. 3. Those who wish to remain in the profession. Options need to be explored to support the changing dynamics of the system and the needs of students.
620	Schools	Consider program like this one to decrease AP costs (transfers costs to students). : <a href="http://www.fredonia.edu/tlc/313/313.htm">http://www.fredonia.edu/tlc/313/313.htm</a> Greater chance that college level work completed in HS will be accepted at choice college if actually completed at a college.
621	Schools	Decrease budget for administrators attending far away conferences.
622	Schools	Please do NOT cut elementary music programs as well as magnet busing. Both of these programs have been pivotal in my 5th grader's academic growth!
623	County and Schools	Please do NOT cut elementary school band and strings! It is a vital and important part of our children's education! Music enhances our children's lives in immeasurable ways and to learn to work together in a setting such as this is a unique and expressive tool that builds so much self esteem and character in our youth. There is NO other opportunity for children of this age to be apart of this experience in their community, unlike sports etc. Please keep music in our elementary schools.
624	Schools	Please do not cut Band and Strings for Elementary Schools in the county. Having the musical experience at a younger age provides a much needed and healthy stimulus to so many of our youngsters. There is a strong link between mathematics and music and encouraging growth musically is an excellent way to grow that part of the brain. Band at the Middle School and High School levels will suffer too. We are a premier county to live in because of the amazing services found in our schools, do not start eliminating them, parents come to this county to enjoy the services and excellent schools!
625	Schools	Please don't cut Occupational Therapy and Special education in the schools. These services have been vital to my daughter's success in school so far (first grade). As a parent, I would embrace a half day kindergarten and also maybe less funding for the smart boards and other technology, I think paper and pencil work just fine. Thanks for your time, please save these services!!
626	County	Our public library system is suffering disproportionately to other county agencies (including school system). Hours have been cut back, staff cut; services greatly affected. Puh-leeze help! In this depressed (and depressing) economy, people depend on libraries more than ever. Door count is way up. Free use of internet is vital; to some the library is their direct (and only) access to the outside world. Children learn to read here, unemployed persons find jobs, people in need find services. Our libraries provide the greatest free service in the world. Aside from hospital emergency rooms, all night pharmacies, and 7-Elevens, there is no other workplace that offers so much, so often, so late. Pls no further cuts. Restore at least some hours. We are willing to pay car tag fees and extra real estate taxes. Thx for listening.
627	County	A good way to raise money would be to charge \$10 a year for library cards or library membership, whatever you want to call it.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
628	County and Schools	DO not change schools with full day Kindergarten back to half day. That is against all educational principles at this point that show the advantages of full day Kindergarten. Let's give children the right start and maintain the positive reputation of Fairfax County as a great school district. Implement a sales tax on restaurants in Fairfax county to earn more revenue!
629	County	I understand that the parking decals in the areas like metro are free. I think that the people that live there should have to pay something for them or limit the # of cars that can have them. some of the houses have lots of people living in them and lots of cars.
630	Schools	FCPS has never made a sincere effort to reduce administrative staff. Primarily, they have just reclassified people who never set foot in a school as "school-based" so that they can claim that the number of non-school-based positions is smaller. The problem is that the administrative staff controls the budget, and their first priority is to protect the administrative staff. The number of cluster offices should be reduced, the number of curriculum specialists and other people who don't teach should be reduced, and the number of non-teachers in schools (the ever-increasing group of administrators, assistant administrators, etc.) should be reduced.
631	Schools	Fairfax County should no longer pay for IB and AP exams for high school students. It is absurd that FCPS is repeatedly harming the quality of instruction by repeatedly increasing class sizes, but continues to pay for tests that don't teach anyone anything. FCPS should put its money on education, not on testing.
632	Schools	FCPS should eliminate driver education from high schools. There is no reason that the school system needs to provide this benefit which has absolutely no academic merit. There are plenty of driver education companies out there for parents to send their children to.
633	Schools	Cut/reduce administration, not classroom offerings.
634	Schools	The elementary school foreign language program (FLES) is a useless frill that only exists so that the people pushing it can take credit for it on their resumes. The amount of time that each child is taught in this program is so small that almost nothing is learned. They would learn more by watching Dora the Explorer on TV. This program should be cut.
635	Schools	Please do not cut the music programs in the elementary schools, they are a blessing and they help kids become better citizens. If there is a budget issue, you should charge a fee to all the kids that want to join
636	Schools	Full-day kindergarten is totally unnecessary for children who live in functional households. It just serves as free day care. It should be eliminated from everywhere but at-risk schools.
637	Schools	The use of "portfolio tests" as an expensive and often deceptive substitute for the Virginia SOL exams needs to be seriously curtailed. There are some instances where the portfolio evaluation is warranted, but their use in FCPS is exploding as schools seek to inflate their SOL numbers. Quoting the Washington Post: "Pass rates for portfolio tests are relatively high, which helps educators meet academic benchmarks but raises questions about the tests' value in rating schools. Portfolios also are expensive, costing Fairfax more than \$500,000 for training and scoring this year alone, not to mention thousands of teacher hours spent compiling them." This needs to stop, and the wasted money needs to be spent on educating students, not on trying to pretend that they're educated.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
638	Schools	I strongly urge you not to cut elementary strings and band programs. Music programs have been shown to increase students' test scores and stimulate brain development and linguistic abilities. Arts programs develop the whole child. As Sec. of Education Arne Duncan recently stated, "The arts can help students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively. These qualities can be especially important in improving learning among students from economically disadvantaged circumstances." See his letter to education leaders at <a href="http://www.menc.org/documents/advocacy/artseducationletter_secretaryduncan.pdf">http://www.menc.org/documents/advocacy/artseducationletter_secretaryduncan.pdf</a> .
639	Schools	Stop the practice of granting higher faculty to student ratios at certain schools at the expense of the rest of the county.
640	Schools	Shorten the school year. I've had kids in FCPS for 13 years now, and the last weeks of school are always wasted. The kids literally sit in class watching videos (typically Disney movies) and learning nothing for days on end. Rather than going through the motions of making the kids put in X number of days in school, be honest about how many days the curriculum actually requires and get the state to approve cutting the school year down to that length. Before you claim that's impossible, remember that we're supposedly in a crisis.
641	Schools	Stop increasing class sizes. The county needs to draw a line in the sand and protect education.
642	Schools	Charge non-teachers to park at school and at the administrative offices such as Gatehouse. I work for the federal government, and my employer doesn't provide me with free parking at my office. This will raise money and promote carpooling. You could even give away free parking passes to people who carpool in the interest of greening our government.
643	Schools	Please do not cut the budget for music (band) programs in elementary schools. The long-term impact would be tremendous. Both of my daughters benefitted greatly from the band program in FCPS. These programs provide an excellent program where our students learn the value of teamwork, responsibility and commitment.
644	Schools	I attended the Woodson meeting yesterday. The young man stated that the schools fund and follow the state SOQ. 22.1-253.13:2. Standard 2.h.5 clearly lays out requirements for library clerical staff, yet most FCPS school libraries have had their clerical staff reduced or cut entirely. It's unacceptable to lie about how students and staff are being affected by decisions not to follow SOQ; decisions which are, incidentally, being made by principals and not the school board.
645	Schools	I would like to state my support of SBTS--school based technology specialists. Teachers have a lot of demands from the county to use technology--grade books, attendance, assessments, sending grade reports home to parents--and the SBTS is the person they turn to when things go wrong. Taking away this vital support is a horrible thing to do at the same time that teachers are dealing with larger classes, insufficient supplies (including having enough computers for a class), no pay increases and no step. Please don't make things harder for teachers.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
646	Schools	I understand there is a proposal to cut band and chorus in elementary school. Please consider the long term impact of such a move. Our schools enjoy a reputation for having one of the absolute best music programs in the entire country. This will be severely impacted for years to come, even if the funding is restored later. The gap in the program from elementary to middle to high school cant be made up and will sharply decrease the overall positive impacts of music. Studies show kids who take music do better in school, particularly in math. Also, all the young bright wonderful elementary music teachers that have such a positive impact on our kids will lose this opportunity to shape young lives. Please look at budget cuts that wont have such a detrimental effect for years, possibly decades to come.
647	Schools	Please do not cut the elementary strings and band programs. It is essential for students to start at this age to develop a strong foundation for their future musical development. Adequate music instruction and dedicated class time must be allocated to achieve this. Music education should be core subject in a child's education. It helps them become a well-rounded person and teaches them life skills, such as teamwork, leadership, and dedication. Studies have shown that students who have received string and band instruction throughout their elementary education score higher on tests and perform better in middle and high school.
648	Schools	The proposal to cut music programs (band and strings) from elementary schools is a short-sighted measure that will not save much money and will cost the county in the long run. Our middle school band is able to offer the students challenging and exciting music programs because the children were exposed in elementary school. Without this exposure, middle school band directors will have to teach all beginners. this will also impact the talent level at the high schools as well. there are much more costly programs ie GT centers (and 3 of my children are GT students) that should be cut far before music is taken away.
649	Schools	Why is the focus of these budget cuts on eliminating programs instead of making decreasing budgets for programs? When you eliminate programs-like the language immersion program- you will need to reassign students and their transportations (currently parents are responsible for transportation). These unintended costs will be sharper increases to your budget. Instead why not consider small changes across the board to many programs until the tax revenue increases or other financial solutions are considered?
650	Schools	I recently heard that elementary strings and band were being considered for elimination. That is just a terrible idea and will shortchange students for the rest of their lives. Band and orchestra are core programs that have been offered at elementary schools since I was an elementary student back in the 1960's. Music has ling been known to help educational development in all students and has a broad reach. You must keep band and strings in the elementary schools for these kids.
651	County and Schools	Do not cut funding for school band and orchestra. These programs keep kids off the streets and out of gangs. To increase revenue, issue citations to people who drive recklessly by talking on the phone. Also issue tickets to litterers, especially of cigarettes.
652	Schools	Please keep kindergarten open for the whole day.
653	Schools	Teachers absolutely must get a cost of living and a step increase this year.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
654	Schools	Please do not cut elementary school band/music programs. Those programs are priceless opportunities for kids to try new things at a time when they are willing to do so, and those opportunities lead to lifelong devotion to music that might never come to fruition. The elementary and middle school music programs feed the high school programs which provide marvelous creative and social outlets for kids at a time when they most need them. Having a band to socialize with and spend time as a new high school student allowed our non-athletic student to make the adjustment to high school very easily, something that would not have been possible if he had not first picked up the trumpet in fourth grade. Please look elsewhere for cuts. The enrichment provided by the music programs in elementary schools is too important to cut. Thank you.
655	Schools	Teacher cost of living and step increases are essential to the retention of the most quality personnel.
656	County and Schools	Teacher cost of living and step increases are essential. FCPS already balanced last year's budget on the backs of teachers. Please cut nonessentials such as the PSAT/ACT practice tests in the fall that many students don't even bother to take, or payment of AP tests that many students don't take seriously anyway. Items such as these could be placed on a sliding, needs-based scale.
657	Schools	Please retain elementary school music programs!
658	County	Teacher cost of living and step increases are essential
659	County and Schools	We need to spend our tax dollars on the school system! We should not be cutting any programs, they all impact our "World Class" system. I am willing to pay a slightly higher tax to help our schools!
660	County and Schools	It is necessary that Board adjust the tax rate, renew the car tax, etc. To loose such things as our elem. music program simply reduces us to a second rate school system. Kids need good teachers and a comprehensive education first. Everything else-administrators, guidance directors, test coordinators, etc must be cut first. Protect the KIDS-provide ALL the quality programs. First, increase the available funds and only then start with non-classroom related cuts. Programs MUST NOT SUFFER IF WE HOPE TO PRODUCE QUALITY STUDNENTS.
661	Schools	The very last thing with cuts should be band and strings - Fairfax County has a national reputation for excellence in the musical arts do not destroy this.
662	Schools	Has there been any talk or look at consolidating clusters? At secondary schools, guidance directors and test coordinators could oversee both HS and MS to consolidate Administrative roles before we lose teaching positions. Local HS and MS or MS and ES Testing Administrators can consolidate to one position. Looking at furloughs, I saw on a chart that 3 days of teachers would be 1.5 Million in savings. For three days for Administrators, it would be 3 Million dollars in savings. On another chart sent out it said teachers account for 62% of FCPS and Administrators account for 3%. That means 634 people make twice as much as the rest of the employees in three days. Maybe there is room to consolidate those positions and save instructional funding.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
663	Schools	I favor eliminating full-day kindergarten, eliminating foreign-language instruction in the elementary schools (which serves so few students), and increasing class size by 1. I would not want to see the elimination of band and strings in the elementary schools, since so many students are served by these programs.
664	Schools	Please do not cut elementary band and strings. This activity provides great structure and spans an 8 year period for the kids you play through high school. Please look at cutting non-academic items, extra-curricular activities, before curricular subjects.
665	County and Schools	Perhaps the library and schools could share resources--facilities, materials, etc. The library fills an important gap during the summer months. Charge a rental fee for library DVDs, charge for holds not picked up within a week. Raise real estate tax rates, raise decal to \$33.00. Furlough all county non-public safety personnel for one day. Stop publishing print "Park Takes" and "This Month". Increase rec center fees. Increase number of gardening plots county rents out. Limit and reduce certain programs in the schools--language immersion in elementary schools, boutique programs. Tax businesses at higher rate; remove breaks. Sell and vacate government center and have smaller, more convenient and efficient locations.
666	Schools	Hi! I would like to support the budget being adjusted so that music programs are NOT cut from school (especially Elementary) . I was part of chorus in grade school and middle school and later in HS Marching Band and have wonderful memories of all (I graduated back in 1985). My music teacher from elementary school remains one of my favorites that had the most impact on my life. It was because of her class and teachings that gave me a love for music and the arts in general. I can't imagine my own children continuing on in school without those programs. Please find a way to support them however possible for the good of the children. They will benefit greatly from them.
667		We must continue to provide elementary band and strings for our students! This is one way that FCPS is a superior system, it has award winning music programs. Without the early start that elementary band and strings provides, we are doing a grave disservice to our youth. Keep elementary band and strings!
668	Schools	To whom it may concern, My name is XX. I am Alumnus of Falls Church High School (FCHS) Class of 1976. I am also an Alumnus of the FCHS Marching Jaguar Band. At the time we were one of the top High School Marching Bands in the Country. It has come to my attention through our Band Alumni Group that the Elementary School Music Programs are in danger of elimination. This would be a travesty. Some of our Band Alumni have become music teachers, professors and Band Directors at Colleges all over the World. One of our trumpet players from the 70's plays in every major motion picture's music track. He has 1000's to his credit. We have had some make records with their own Group. Our Band Alumni had a Reunion for all years this past August. Considering how fast it was put together, 200 of us showed up, including Mr. James Stegner (Director in the 70's and 80's) and Mr. Davenport who is the current director at FCHS. In three years we are going to have another one



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		<p>and over three hundred would not be out of the question. We planned our family vacation around this and had a wonderful time. When I was in the FCHS Band, my parents were heavily involved as Chaperones and Chaperone Chairman. They went on all the trips, helped in ever facet a parent could help. This was the first and only thing that my parents were ever involved in in my childhood was my music. Even in Middle School at J.G. Whittier, I was in the Northern Virginia Patriots and marched in the parades in D.C. and other places. My folks were involved with that also. So not only does Music involve the student it involves those parents who care. Even my children took up music in school and marched also. Imagine your day without music. Why would you need a radio other than talk radio. Imagine some of the most important moments in your life and I bet you can connect it to a song that was playing at the time or is somehow related to that moment. Music is vitally important. It has been shown that students involved in music have less problems at home, in school, cause less problems and are generally in the upper percentile of the school for grades. A call for help has been put out by our Alumni, so please expect a few folks from the FCHS Band Alumni to be at your meeting on November 14th. If I still lived locally, I would be there. But please know I will be there in spirit and those members of the Alumni that show up also represent me and others who can not make it. Mr. Davenport (FCHS Director now) has doubled the size of the Band in 4 years. At the Reunion, he asked questions about the Band's past. It is very important to him that he and the kids now where the Band came from. In this high-tech day and age, kids have so many other distractions other than music. When I was in, Band was my life 10-11 months out of the year with pre-band camp, band camp, post band camp practice and then practice once school started up. We played until the last day of the school year. We need to catch these kids early and get them involved in music when they first show an interest before the computers and other things grab their attention. Being in the FCHS Band is one of the proudest achievements in my life. It makes me happy to this day and meeting old Band friends in August was just icing on the cake. In April of 2008, months before a Reunion was even in the works, I made a special trip from Florida to Virginia for one reason, to see Mr. Stegner. I wanted to thank him for what he gave me. A love of music, a purpose in my young life that has carried over and a sense of responsibility to myself and others as a Group. He showed it took teamwork to make music, much less marching work. He showed that if you work at something you can achieve your goals and be the best. That teamwork concept has been with me ever since in my personal and professional life. Mr. Stegner is one of the three most influential people in my life. I am sorry to have rambled on, but MUSIC is IMPORTANT. Please do not make any cuts that are not a necessity. The County where I work as a Deputy Sheriff told all parts of the County to cut their budgets by the same percentage amount. There was no consideration made for what was important or needed. We are now low on manpower, thus endangering the citizens of this County because of necessary and important items being taken away. We are operating bare bones and it is not good for our safety or the safety of our citizens. Do not make this mistake please. Make wise decisions, not hasty ones or ones you will regret later because it was not thought through. The decisions your are going to make are life altering. I wish you luck and God speed in your endeavor.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
669	Schools	My suggestion is that bus services to Elementary GT Centers be reduced in neighborhoods in which there is a neighborhood school that provides level IV GT Services. My children attend Chesterbrook, a school that has provided Level IV GT Services its students for 3-4 years. Some Chesterbrook Students are still provided bus service to Haycock by a bus that makes many stops. I think there should be a single bus that goes directly from Chesterbrook to Haycock each day without lots of stops. I agree with the reduction in the provision of full-day kindergarten; research finds that the benefits of full-day kindergarten (as compared to part-time) are often diminished by the end of the first grade.
670	County and Schools	Cutting music in elementary school might save a few dollars now, but the negative impact over many years will far outweigh any short term savings. This will severely impact not only the students in elementary schools, but middle and high school programs as well in years to come, as starting music at a young age is extremely important.
671	County and Schools	Please support the arts. Do not cut back these programs, as they are demonstratively beneficial for our students' education.
672	Schools	Music education is a vital component of a comprehensive education for all students. The United States government has at this point, multiple times, deemed music to be a CORE SUBJECT, critical to a total education. Yet, when budgets are in jeopardy, one of the first things to be discussed as a potential cut is music education. This is unconscionable. Is FCPS a world-class school system or not? Any school system which arbitrarily chooses to cut music programs when there is a budget crisis certainly is not world-class. Note that music class sizes (ensemble classes) are not capped like other academic subject classes. If you cut music positions, you will have to redistribute those students in other classes and hire more staff. The FCPS school board needs to take a "fine-tooth comb" approach to the budget crisis and make wise, insightful, well-considered and thoroughly researched decisions, rather than making sweeping programmatic cuts based on a lack of understanding of their true impact. Cutting elementary strings and band programs is also devastating not only to our children, but to our teachers and the local economy (small businesses) which support the instrumental needs created by these programs. The effect of such cuts will be far-reaching and take a long time to recover from.
673	County and Schools	The library agency receives .09% of the county budget each fiscal year while Public Schools receive 54% of the budget. Why are public libraries not receiving a bigger piece of the pie? Libraries support the education of ALL members in the community from preschoolers to seniors. The materials collection for elementary and secondary students is selected based on the Virginia SOLs. The public library is accessible to students for study and research when public schools are not open. Most primary grade students visit the public school library 30 minutes each week on average. The frequency of visits for higher grades depends on the teacher. The library's Ready-to-Read program provides outreach services through library staff and specially trained volunteers so children are ready for school at age five. <a href="http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/preschoolers/earlylit.htm">http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/preschoolers/earlylit.htm</a> Each year FCPL offers a Summer Reading Program to encourage children and young adults to continue reading while the public schools are closed.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		In 2008 over 60,000 students of all ages participated. This program is funded solely by the Library's Friends Groups (with money earned at book sales) and the Library Foundation. Each spring FCPL visits local public schools to motivate students to sign up for FCPL's summer reading program. This is a partnership between the schools and the libraries but the schools do not offer any money to help fund this program. FCPL's Talking Book service mails audio books and equipment to individuals who are unable to read due to visual impairments or unable to visit the library due to physical limitations. This agency does not receive enough county revenue as it is cutting their budget in FY 2011 by 15% will result in lay offs, reduced hours of operation, and a reduction in online and print materials.
674	Schools	Please do not reduce the number of full day kindergartens. My son is in a full day program now and he is flourishing. It is giving him a wonderful set of skills he can build on for the remainder of his elementary "career". I can't imagine what will happen in a couple of years when my daughter reaches the Kindergarten age if the time at school is shrunk by over half. She will really be at a disadvantage - please reconsider this change in the budget. Thank you, Fairfax resident
675	Schools	Hi, My son attends Pimmit Hills. If the school closes next year, where would he go to finish his diploma? Please do not close this school. Thank you.
676	Schools	Regarding Pimmit Hills High School: I have heard the county is closing this school. I recommend a reorganization of the school, instead. 1) We do not need two APs, a principal, and a Director of Student Services. We would survive with one coordinator/director. 2) We do not need two guidance counselors. 3) We do not need any instructional assistants. 4) Each department could lose one teacher, if necessary (it would mean increasing class sizes). 5) We do not need a full time and part time SBTS. One part time SBTS would work. Thank you.
677	Schools	Social work services in the schools need to be eliminated or redefined. There is too much reliance on relationships established with other professional groups and not enough emphasis placed on independence and self sufficiency. The truth of the matter is this: Any number of professional groups can do much of what is provided by school social workers. What is also true is that the county is losing a significant amount of money through duplication of services. Social workers attempt to justify their professional practice by referencing the Venn diagram approach to service delivery with unions and intersections of related disciplines as a basis for helping laymen make sense of their role in the schools. While their explanation offers a simplistic way to understand social work practice as a whole, it does not sufficiently address the need for a more original and cost-effective plan to meet student needs. It is evident

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		that social workers know this. But they really don't have anything further to offer. In the absence of any real solutions, they boost themselves with petty competitions with their colleagues. Emphasis is placed on their associations with county agencies, their clinical licenses, private practices, and the different committees and teams they are working with to address this issue or that. While there may be great merit to some of these works and discussions, the critical issue here is that most of these things do not directly impact classroom operations. Since the instructional needs of students is the fundamental basis of education in American schools, FCPS needs to take an honest and practical look at the current conditions facing our county and make the tough decisions needed to get the school system back on track. Bottom line is this: At a time of massive economic constraint, school social work services are not the highest priority.
678	Schools	Please do not cut the elementary/middle school SPANISH immersion programs. If you must, you can cut FLES, and immersion for the lesser spoken languages, but the SPANISH immersion program is very beneficial to students in many ways. I am speaking as a parent AND as a teacher of students who have been in Spanish immersion. My daughters attend the immersion program at London Towne ES. The program has benefitted them in so many ways. My fourth grader got a perfect score on three SOL exams last year. One of the exams, Science, was in English but even though she had literally never learned a word of science in English, she still excelled. They both have perfect accents, and an amazing grasp of Spanish. As you know, London Towne ES has a much challenged population. There are many students who only speak Spanish at home. The dual immersion Kindergarten program is essential to bridge the gap for those students who struggle with English as a second language. I also teach Spanish at Westfield HS, and many of these immersion students are in my classes. I teach the upper levels (Spanish 3 and above). Ninth graders who have been in immersion go directly to Spanish 3, and are able to complete Spanish 4, AP Spanish Language, and AP Spanish Literature during their high school career. Westfield is one of TWO schools in the county that offers AP Spanish Literature (the other is Thomas Jefferson). If you eliminate the Spanish immersion program, it will greatly diminish our program at Westfield. Eliminating Spanish immersion will have repercussions for our students' futures. Please consider cutting FLES, French, Chinese and Japanese, but do NOT cut the Spanish Immersion Program. Hispanics are the largest minority population in our area, and in our students' lifetimes they will be a MAJORITY. Spanish is ESSENTIAL.
679	County and Schools	NYC is using their school buses that sit idle during the school day to transport their seniors (age 60+) to grocery stores, senior centers, etc. In NYC the cost is minimal as drivers are already paid more hours than the actually work. Worked in conjunction with Fastran, standard routes could be set up between senior centers, shopping centers, and medical complexes. Exploring a joint effort between school transportation and fastran could increase services offered at a decreased cost.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
680	County	The libraries are very important to the entertainment & education of the county. Even though I have kids in the school system (& have largely been happy with our experience there), I have long said that the thing I would miss the most if we ever moved (& the thing that has kept us here) is our library system. Cutting the hours & services & ability to buy new material more than you did last year would be a short sighted decision because the libraries provided real, substantive value to the citizens of the county.
681	County	The County should increase the budget for its public libraries. Public libraries are an educational resource that is available to all citizens rich and poor and young and old. Anyone can go to the library and learn something new. This is especially useful in this difficult economy where many people are learning new trades and looking for a job. Don't cut off our citizens who want to move ahead with a new skill and a successful job.
682	County	After last year's budget cuts, staff morale in the Library system plummeted. Now we are being told that the Libraries are expected to have an additional 15% reduction in their budget for the next fiscal year. The only place left to make that cut is additional personnel being let go. Another large cut in library staff! Why is the Library system being asked every year to make such large cuts? If the public wants hours to be restored to 9:00 P.M., how can that be done when the Library work staff (not administration) is constantly being reduced to save money? Close the libraries on Sundays. Is it necessary for them to be open seven days a week?
683	County and Schools	Please set the advertised real property tax rate at the amount necessary to fully fund both the \$300 million plus deficit in the county general fund budget AND the \$176 million deficit in the school budget. Do not foreclose the possibility of fully funding all necessary programs. Excellent schools and excellent county services are a major factor in keeping property values high. Do not turn Fairfax into another California where an outstanding public education system from K through university has been trashed by the shortsighted selfishness of the anti-tax crowd.
684	County and Schools	Freezing teacher salaries again would be unconscionable. We already make far less than people in other careers with comparable levels of education and experience, and we are now in a career where our compensation for our work will not increase through merit or through experience. I can only speak for myself, but my personal feeling is that if we are denied a raise for the second year in a row it is a strong statement that Fairfax County has no respect for the professionalism of its teachers. As a human being, I need two things: to be able to afford to live where I work and to feel respected. Freezing our salaries would deny me both of those things and leave me looking elsewhere for a job. I'm guessing that I won't be alone.
685	Schools	Please don't cut band and strings in the elementary schools. Everyone is allowed to participate, and research proves how important they are. Not everyone participates in GT--and it's unfair that they have kept their busing, while other programs that benefit all kids are cut.
686	Schools	I am aware of the extreme budget issues. I strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to fully fund the transfer of money to the schools. Without a strong, competitive school system, our real estate values will decline. Please, keep the fine caliber of FCPS and the good reputation of the County intact but funding our schools fully now to ensure our future!

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
687	County and Schools	We strongly oppose any reduction in the band and orchestra programs. Fairfax County prioritizes excess focus and funds in team athletics, which bears much less impact on academics than instrumental music.
688	Don't Know	Do whatever but cut elementary band/orchestra programs.
689	County and Schools	Music and the arts is critical to the success of children in the Fairfax County School. PLEASE DO NOT CUT MUSIC IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. I understand that FCPS has school more days than the state requires and that the costs to run school and additional day is very high. Please consider saving money by reducing the number of days to the required minimum.
690	Schools	It is imperative that we do not short-change our students of vital school programs. The county needs revenue solutions (inc real estate tax, raise vehicle fees) to ensure that a generation of students receives an outstanding education in Fairfax county. I am a graduate of FCPS and although I graduated with a 3.9 GPA, my career has been limited because I am not bi-lingual. As a result, I am particularly concerned with possibility of losing the Immersion Programs. The county is quoting a savings of \$1.4 million, my research shows that a sizable portion of this number will be cost-shifting. The two-way immersion programs will have greater ESL expenses. The other programs will also have to replace teachers. The GT program will be in greater demand. Even if at \$1.4M or .06% of the county budget, these programs are a "gem" in our school system. Bi-lingual children, cultural awareness, and greater parental involvement are some of the many benefits. I plan on enrolling my children in the Fox Mill Japanese Immersion Program. It is a commitment on my part to drive them to school for 8 years. A commitment that I will gladly make because I have seen first hand that being mono-lingual is career limiting.
691	Schools	When decisions must be made to scale back expenses over the next few budget cycles, I pray that the FC School Board will see fit to maintain its commitment to elementary band and strings programs. Throughout history, the mark of an educated person has been an ability to play music. Today the quality of music instruction in FCPS is one of the hallmarks of the great education our children are receiving. Cutting these programs will not only hurt all Fairfax County children, it will hurt the economically disadvantaged most severely. Children from middle and upper middle class homes can afford to supplement the school curriculum with extra-curricular music. Students whose parents can not afford to keep music in their children's lives will be hit hardest and most unfortunately.
692	Schools	Please preserve the elementary school level band program. The high school band program is one of the best extracurricular activities in Fairfax County in terms of the benefit to the student on academic achievement and college admissions. Eliminating the program at the elementary level will guarantee a serious and permanent decline in the quality of music ability in the upper levels, and, consequently, in the quality of the programs themselves. Serious study of music provides so many benefits to the student, but it must be funded at the elementary level. By not allowing students to start instrumental education until 7th grade, you are essentially wasting the money in high school -- it's too late. I have taught private classical piano to 1st -12th graders for many years and can tell you that the most important years of music study are the earliest. Starting later than age 12 dooms the student to failure.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
693	County and Schools	Extracurriculars, i.e. music & sports are extremely important to the development of a well-rounded individual. Success in life is not strictly academic grades. Let's not forget we are educating future leaders, citizens who should be exposed to varying aspects of life and cultural enrichment. The skills learned and bonds developed when participating in team activities are invaluable later in life whether in a work place, family, or community environment.
694	County and Schools	I understand there is a proposal to curtail or eliminate funding for music education and band programs at the elementary and middle school level. I believe this would be a huge mistake. Music instruction for our son at Wolftrap and Kilmer has been key not only for his love of music but has assisted him with his math skills.
695	Schools	Eliminating the Modified Calendar would be taking a step backwards. Timber Lane Elementary could be in jeopardy of losing AYP, test scores dropping. Summer school and early intervention would need to be provided for many of the ESOL students that attend our school. The current administration is advocating for this extended year. They are encouraging communities to embrace the forward thinking of Fairfax County. Please continue to be a role model for educating the diverse population in our community.
696	Schools	I believe that the FCPS must maintain their music program through out the schools. It develops teamwork, improves self-esteem, confidence, community involvement, PR for FCPS up and down the east coast. It teaches the students to work hard that they will be successful. It is a good program for the students to be involved in that aren't athletic. It gives them school loyalty, spirit and keeps them active so there is no time to get into trouble.
697	Schools	Assess the parents of student each \$500 per child to help cover the deficit. They will pay it in order to keep current services.
698	Schools	Please do NOT cut the music programs at the Elementary and Middle School level. My child hated her elementary school until she joined it's band program. Music was the anchor that helped my daughter get through her difficult middle school years, and helped her smoothly enter high school. I cannot imagine where she'd be today without her love of music, which started in 5th grade band.
699	Schools	Please do not cut elementary school band and strings programs. FCPS high school programs currently win awards & are nationally recognized, but they will suffer in the future if they no longer receive students from feeder schools who have learned to play instruments in 5th or 6th grade. It takes years to develop skills, & music education plays a vital role in the intellectual development of children, in addition to teaching teamwork and self-discipline.
700	Schools	I would focus on updating individual computer labs (memory and screens) but nothing like building an entire lab.
701	Schools	Please do not cut ban programs in Elementary schools. The links between music and higher level math are firmly established. Cutting band programs in elementary schools will devastate the programs in High School. For many students, band at elementary school is the only way that they can afford to participate in a music playing activity due to the cost of private lessons. Please keep this program intact. Thank you

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
702	Schools	It is ridiculous to cut music out of the elementary schools. This will have a negative impact on our music departments for years to come. Fairfax County was a premier location to come to for our quality of schools. If you cut the music department you will severely tarnish our reputation. And not just for the few years to help the budget process. This will have repercussions for years. Haven't you seen the many reports about how beneficial music is to the brain? And that students in music are better at science and math? Do you not care about giving our children the best education possible. I'm just glad my children will be graduating soon. Not sure if I would look at Fairfax as the best school system anymore. Might have had to look at other places for my kids education. Especially if you continue to cut the programs.
703	Schools	Our teachers must get a step increase this year. What Fairfax County is expecting of its teachers for so little pay is a travesty.
704	Schools	Eliminate Director of Student Services positions in each school's counseling department and appoint Lead Counselors instead. Assign the master schedule and evaluations to an assistant principal.
705	Schools	Please think carefully before eliminating foreign language programs (immersion and others) in elementary schools. These are unique academic programs that have been built over a number of years. They set FCPS apart from other school districts.
706	Schools	schools should keep music and foreign language under their curriculum. it is extremely important for our children development. we should request parents to volunteer to teach these subjects, if money becomes an issue. I would not mind to volunteer to teach Spanish, on Saturdays, because I work full time. I am sure there are other parents with other talents, cooking, painting, etc that could volunteer their services too, for the good of all.
707	Schools	I was an art teacher in California before moving to Virginia many years ago and I have seen this brutal budget cut action before. The arts seem to be first to go but it is necessary for children to be exposed to music and other arts to become well-rounded citizens and contributing adults to preserve our society. Do not cut music in the elementary and middle schools. When else would the majority of children be exposed to and expand their minds and world by such an experience? Have you seen how many kids are in the high school programs? Most of them have played since elementary school. The schools have a responsibility to support these music programs for the children's future. Thank you.
708	County	I would hope when employee positions are being considered for RIF or elimination, that employees who have been with the county longer are not let go before an employee that has been with the county for less time. Something should be said for time in service.
709	Schools	Please do not but the music program out of our county's elementary schools! We have such an award winning music program and this is possible only because the kids start in elementary school. Is a county-wide school tax a possibility?



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
710	Schools	Concerned about the possible elimination of the Foreign Language Immersion Program. My daughter has been attending since Kindergarten. What an incredible opportunity to learn a foreign language in a public school. Most families couldn't afford the alternative of a private school setting in order to take advantage of learning a new language. This program is what "sets" Fairfax County schools apart from other counties. Please don't end Immersion Program!
711	County	Please do not cut library funding anymore! It is much harder to get to the library when they close early now on Thursday and Friday nights at 6 pm, and I do not even get off work until 6 pm! Furthermore, that leaves just the weekends, and, on Sundays, they used to open at 12 noon, but now they do not even open until 1 p.m. This is so inconvenient and, every time I go to the Reston Library on a Sunday at 1 pm, scores of people are waiting outside until they open. Lastly, it's become harder to request titles for the library to purchase, as they do not have as much \$\$ in their account per resident as they used to. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do not cut library funding anymore. They are already operating on spit and a shoestring.
712	Don't Know	Your literature is incorrect, "FCPS Fall 2009 Community Dialogue Meetings: Closing the Budget Gap." "While providing excellent programs under challenging budget constraints, FCPS complies with all state and federal requirements and mandates, which include the NCLB, IDEA, Impact Aid, and the Virginia Standards of Quality." The Virginia Standards of Quality mandate support staff in school libraries. FCPS eliminated the job title "media assistant" and many schools had their library support staff laid off. Because their jobs were eliminated, they had no bumping rights, even though many had years of experience (up to 24 1/2 years). Those school libraries operating without support staff are not complying with state SOQ, and are also jeopardizing the schools accreditation with the Southern Assoc. of Colleges and Schools. They are: Hayfield, South County, Thomas Jefferson, Oakton, Robinson, Fairfax, many middle schools, and many elementaries.
713		Real estate taxes should be increased so that people are paying the same amount they did 2 years ago before their assessments dropped.
714	County and Schools	I am a student who has come from music, which has greatly affected my life positively. Without the music program in my elementary school, I would not know as many people and I wouldn't be the same. What music does for children is increase imagination and hope. What we need in this economy IS hope and without it, what can one do? My life may not be of value to you, but the future should be. Please think carefully about it.
715	County and Schools	If every County full time employee donates one hour of their pay every 6 months, how many jobs is this going to save? We all have to make the sacrifices, not only the library, or a few agencies.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
716	Don't Know	I have been a Friend of the Reston Regional Library for more than ten years and a sorter of donated books and book sale helper for nine. Even though I moved to Loudoun County four years ago, I remain a working member of the Friends. When I arrive at the library at 10AM there are always people waiting to get in, no matter what day, no matter what the weather is. The library is always filled with people, from kids to seniors. . The Friends have been working harder and harder to raise money for the Reston Library, but we can only finance things, not people or hours of service. The library budget has already been drastically cut. Surely a service that the community uses to such a great extent deserves a break in the present round of cuts.
717	County and Schools	I would prefer to raise the real estate tax rate so that we can sustain our current services, especially the quality of our schools. I do not favor a local vehicle registration tax --this would unfairly harm families that live paycheck to paycheck. How about a tax on the third car you purchase, or a luxury car tax? No more cuts to schools and libraries!
718	Schools	Charge for PSATs, SATs, ACTs and IB exams. No new textbook adoptions next year. Consider renting textbooks to students. No new classes for 2010. Charge a participation fee for each sport. Cancel all summer school. Cancel all late buses. Cancel payment for travel and attendance at conferences at all levels. End all WAR contracts. Cut back on paper use by 20%; reinstate teacher copier codes. End DuFours, Kagan, Marzano, Oliver and other outside professional development programs. Close all schools for the month of July - at least two weeks. Close all schools over Winter Break. Close all schools over Spring Break. Adjust all school based 12 month contracts affected by the points above. Put all 12 month non-school based instructional personnel on 218-day contracts. (2 wks off in July, Winter and Spring break off) End all redlining. Collapse Clusters back into four Areas. Combine central offices, cut back on number of Assistant Superintendents. Establish transparency for all non-school offices and personnel Charge actual cost for use of all facilities and fields by community groups. Do NOT cut teacher contracts. Do NOT cut library programs.
719	Schools	Please do not eliminate the music program in elementary schools. It is a small impact to the budget. The music programs are critical to the educational balance of our students. Our outstanding music programs make our schools shine. If you want to make a cut consider eliminating the county paying for AP testing. Most high school parents with children trying for AP classes have no problem paying for the test. The paying for this testing is a waste of money.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
720	Schools	The elimination of elementary band and strings programs would be a travesty to our students. Please do everything to keep programs that directly impact our students. Perhaps it would be more effective to suspend some of the money utilized for staff development. Eliminating some of the administrative leave required and thousands of dollars in staff/professional development workshops will not directly student classroom education. The vast majority of teachers work hard to keep current in their discipline beyond the professional development dollars spent. In addition, the mentor program for new teachers could also be significantly down scaled. Many new teachers have stated how they wish for one person in their discipline to guide them as well as having more time in their classroom. Many stress about the multiple extra meetings they must attend as new teachers which is time out of their classroom doing what they need to do: prepare lessons.
721	Schools	I would like to specifically address two FY 11 budget issues. Full day kindergarten is a must for all children. in full day, it is difficult (but feasible) for teachers to ensure kindergarteners are taught the core curriculum and that they are prepared for the next level of academics. Limiting their time only decreases the chance of children succeeding. This leads to more children who must be "left behind", a lower standard of SOL testing and even less funding to the school. And this cannot be a real cost saver. The additional bus service for late morning pickups and drop-offs alone costs money. You are not saving money in teacher salaries or school services. The only benefit is getting more kids through kindergarten but then you have a population issue in 1st grade. In addition, the ripple affect to daycare providers is profound. Childcare centers, SAC, and daycare providers are not equipped or ready to take on part day children. Where will SAC kids go? How can daycare centers that provide preschool while children are in school provide that service if they get kindergarteners early in the afternoon? What are the cost ramifications for families who now have to pay more for before/after school? Cutting kindergarten to part day negatively impacts our teachers, our students, our school budget and our community. There is no benefit at all to us. Autism Ratios: these teachers are already struggling and increasing the ratio only makes it more difficult for the teacher and the child. As a parent of two, one of them mildly autistic child, I struggle with the ratio everyday. I want my child to have the additional help and guidance extra teachers bring and I want the other children to have the opportunity to continue with a lesson even if another is having a meltdown. That gets significantly more difficult with a higher ratio. Also, if FCPS is committed to no child left behind, it is imperative that these students get the additional services of low student/teacher ratios to help them succeed. I think FCPS needs to explore alternate ways of funding schools rather than cutting budgets. Although overcrowding is forcing an upcoming bond referendum, maybe some of that should go to funding schools instead of building schools. How will you pay for additional teachers, administration, janitorial support? How will you pay for bus services, books, equipment? Fund what you have FCPS, not what you want.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
722	Schools	Please do not cut band from our schools. Creativity and imagination are being driven out of the school program at an alarming rate. Music is a way for children to excel who might not do so in traditional academics. Please consider that fact that well rounded children are better able to become positive forces in a future community. Budget cuts in our music program now will have lasting effects in our children's lives.
723	Schools	PLEASE do not eliminate full-day kindergarten from the FY 2011 FFX County Budget. The amount of money saved versus the cost to the students is not proportional. The benefits of a full-day of education for children are well documented. My daughter is enrolled at Cunningham Park ES and is in kindergarten. She loves school and is doing extremely well. I have two more children who will also benefit from a full-day of kindergarten just like their sister. Fairfax County always claims that its schools offer a superior education and by eliminating full-day kindergarten, you will reduce one of the best features of your school system. Full-day kindergarten also provides working parents with a feasible way to balance work and home. I am sure that I am not the first nor will I be the last parent who will tell the Board of Supervisors that full day kindergarten is a wonderful and important part of the educational system of Fairfax County. Thank you for listening to my thoughts and I hope that you will reconsider the elimination of full-day kindergarten.
724	Schools	Fairfax Schools excel in many ways, but are threatened by proposals to cut things like foreign language, music, and magnet funding for the Elementary schools. These are programs that require large investments to begin and even more to restart. Entire groups of children will be left out and put behind when years later these programs are restarted. Cut some of the FCPS Admin--the buildings and bureaucracy built has been ridiculous. Keep the money in the schools, with good programs like music and foreign language, pay teachers and cut so many bloated staff that adds little more than powerpoint slides or "studies".
725	Schools	I believe music is very important for our kids. In this era everything is away from souls and mental relaxation, but music can help our kids to take a break and nourish their mind and soul. lots of families may are not aware of music benefits but FCPS can introduce the benefit of music to our children as soon as early education. Please be consider about developing music at schools as more strong as before. Thanks
726	County	Raise residential property taxes to \$1.11 per \$100.00 assessed value. Raise commercial property taxes, too.
727	County and Schools	Elect officials with enough common sense and guts to tell the citizens we need a 1% sales tax in NOVA to pay for schools. There would be no budget issues. It's really pathetic when you compare our demographics to other States, where citizens pay almost double our state and local taxes.
728	Schools	The proposed list of possible reductions from the FCPS 2010 budget seems so wholesale in nature. As someone who prepares millions of dollars worth of commercial property budgets each year, my suggestion would be that more detailed line-item evaluations are conducted. My other suggestion would be increasing fees for those above a certain income level for special services such as band, or sports or special education and summer school programs. These are vital programs that bring prestige to our County and expand the minds of our children. Certainly there must be ways they can endure.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
729	County and Schools	Education is the key for success!
730	Schools	Please do not eliminate the elementary band/orchestra programs. I was one of the many beneficiaries of the program during my youth in Fairfax County and I want my children to have the same opportunity. Failure to have elementary programs will surely have a negative impact on both the kids and the arts for years to come. Chesterbrook Elementary School Mom
731	Schools	Please retain band and strings in the elementary schools. It is not only incredibly valuable in and of itself, but also is a tremendously pro-social activity that provides children with an opportunity to participate in a positive group activity.
732	Schools	I feel Fairfax county needs to stop increasing classroom size. this is the "easy" way out. Every time we get in a pinch this becomes the answer. It was already increased last year for general classes and now the county wants to do this again. Classes are getting too large. Fairfax was given Federal and State funding to reduce class sizes now all the good this does for our students will be wasted on our students.
733	County and Schools	Could you explain to me why, on the list of possible cuts for the 2011 budget ( <a href="http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/possiblecuts2011.pdf">http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/possiblecuts2011.pdf</a> ). There is NO mention of cuts to County or School Board Administration costs or staff or anything? How can you even think of cutting teacher staff or anything to do with the class room before you make cuts at the top most levels? I am appalled at such poor judgment on the part of your proposal.
734	Schools	Please keep the immersion program. I have seen my children develop in many more ways than learning Spanish. They learn better in all their subjects.
735	County and Schools	Save the Immersion Programs in our Elementary Schools. This program is a gem that makes the Fairfax County school system so special. My three children have benefited greatly from the language program and the enhanced diversity in their school.
736	Schools	I am a lifelong Fairfax County resident and the parent of two County school children. My daughters have benefited immeasurably from the modified calendar program at Timber Lane Elementary School and I believe it is extremely short-sighted to consider eliminating this program from the FY 2011 budget. Any serious examination of this program will reveal that, from a strictly financial standpoint, it actually saves the County money. When factoring in the benefits to students at the seven modified calendar schools, there seems to be no doubt of the true value of this program.
737	Schools	I support instrumental music programs in elementary, middle, and high schools. I support full funding of the county libraries--we need them now more than ever.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
738	Schools	I'm the parent of a high school student in the Fairfax County school system. I understand the county is considering the elimination of all band and string programs in the county's elementary schools. My daughter has benefited very greatly from the band program in her high school. It has provided a focus for all her efforts in school the last three-plus years, and has been a large factor in her success there. From what she tells me, the program in her school has been at least as important a force for many of the others in the band, and that the program has probably kept a number of band members in school at all. A significant portion of the band members have gone on to major in music or in music education in college. Since the elementary program is the major feeder for the high school program, the high school program will inevitably suffer severely in the future, and for years to come. My daughter also tutors music students at Bailey's whose special program depends very heavily on its band and orchestra instruction. Eliminating that would eliminate a large portion of Bailey's successful program. The prospective savings from cutting the program are relatively small, but the benefits that would be eliminated are not. Look somewhere else for cuts - which I fully recognize must be made -- look, perhaps, to cutting administrative overhead.
739	County and Schools	Funding needs to be maintained for library and school personnel. This economy needs jobs. Library staff has taken a major hit and should be spared more personnel cuts. We need to keep jobs in Fairfax County. Also, funding needs to remain for indoor track as this inexpensive school program serves an enormous number of students. Students who run track do not try-out like they do for other team sports. This allows many students to participate in a team sport who would likely not be able to otherwise. In this age of obesity and gangs, indoor and outdoor track are easy low cost ways for Fairfax county to support the health of our youth. Thank you very much.
740	Schools	Do NOT cut out music and arts programs. I would NEVER have moved into Fairfax county in the first place if I thought the County did not have these programs or would cut these programs. To do so would be short sighted and foolhardy. Certainly not in the best interest of our children or the community!!
741	County	Do not increase the real estate tax. County employees who own a home in Fairfax County are hit twice - no pay increase and increased real estate taxes.
742	County	In stead of pay for performance money increases give employees an annual leave increase. If an employee was to receive a 4% pay raise, give the person a 4% increase in annual leave. The annual leave increase would stay with the employee just as the pay increase would.
743	County and Schools	All employees who lost their jobs last year because they were probationary, or limited term and funds were lost, but, were able to secure funding after the fact should be exempt from being RIFed in FY10 or FY11. In other words, you shouldn't have to fight for your job two years in a row. There are thousands of others on the scrolls. And it's about time the county came clean in the public's eye and the press about our use of limited term employees who are not factored into county efficiencies. It's misleading and beneath the reputation of Fairfax County to continue to behave as if we are operating with less merit positions per county resident by not including the number of limited term employees our county utilizes.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
744	County and Schools	Decrease benefits for the first year new employees are on the job while they are on their 12 month probation. Decrease health insurance, annual leave, etc. Once they have been employed for 12 months and get their first rating they can get full benefits.
745	County	Is there a possibility of having hours decreased instead of a job being completely cut? There are only two options for hours (20 or 40hrs) it seems. In the private sector, there are more flexible options between 30-37.5 hours per week or any combination of hours. Also private sector jobs can decrease hours temporarily until the financial situation is more stable and increase them as needed when the situation improved. This may be better option than cutting the job completely.
746	Schools	<p>I have TWO suggestions that are relevant to easing the stress of mental clinician's data entry into Synaps. Suggestion One About 3 years ago, we used a PROGRESS NOTE for CASE MANAGEMENT services with a succinct format requiring clinicians to "check off" what they did in a single session. This is the way hospitals do their notes (i.e., nurses). There is a space at the bottom of the form for "comments" in which clinicians may elaborate on the details of the visit, if pertinent. I have pasted the form below (please bear with the loss of formatting): FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRESS NOTE CLIENT NAME: CASE #: Date/Time: Activity Related to ISP Objective: Content of Case Management Activity: Face to Face Non Face to Face: <input type="checkbox"/> Client only <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone call to client <input type="checkbox"/> Client and Family Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone call with: <input type="checkbox"/> Client and other <input type="checkbox"/> Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation: Case Management Activity directed toward assisting and or linking client to: <input type="checkbox"/> Abstinence, achieve or maintain. <input type="checkbox"/> Collateral contact with significant others to promote community adjustment or implement ISP. <input type="checkbox"/> Community Support, link client to: <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation/coordination of care, monitor progress/service delivery with other treatment provider. <input type="checkbox"/> Crisis intervention, develop plan, provides stabilization. <input type="checkbox"/> Education and training of adaptive methods of handling stress/anxiety, enhance functioning in community. <input type="checkbox"/> Employment, maintain or obtain form into Synaps (there's already a check list form as an example; see: MENTAL STATUS EXAM under MH ADULT ASSESSMENT) and if necessary include additional MEDICAID key verbs. At the bottom, leave a narrative BOX for comments. Suggestion Two I'd like to carry this data entry format over to the Individual Therapy sessions form, since, at least in my clinical experience, I find myself writing the same key sentences for each client. Here's a quick EXAMPLE: 1) Client was ON/NOT ON time. 2) Client presented with _____ mood,</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		<p>3) _____ affect. 4) Client reported _____ issues. 5) SAI made _____ intervention 6) using _____ counseling. 7) Client's response was _____ 8) as evidenced by _____. 9) SAI recommended/suggested/encouraged that client _____</p> <p><b>CODE NUMBERS</b> 1) this sentence is easy; just make a dropdown menu for "on/not on". 2) this sentence would require a word insertion since "mood" is generally reported by the consumer in response to questioning, e.g., how are your spirits today? 3) this sentence could have a dropdown menu using the same options on the MSE form under RANGE OF AFFECT; namely, "WNL, labile, flat/blunted, constricted, inappropriate, other". 4) this sentence would also have a dropdown menu and include (for example) the following: interpersonal/family, work related, financial/benefits, health/medical, self esteem/identity/image, sexual, appetite/eating, marriage/significant other/partner. This list is NOT exhaustive; hence, if we end up using this we'd probably have to put a team together of representative clinicians who specialize in working with children, adolescents, adults, and older adults to supply more types of issues. 5) Type of intervention needs to correspond with the type of "issues" specified on the ISP; for example, "emotion focused, behavioral, cognitive" 6) Type of counseling needs to be appropriate for the type of intervention, so if we say in #5 emotion focused, the type of counseling might be "supportive, trauma, humanistic, person centered", and if we say in #5 behavioral, the type of counseling could be "assertiveness training, desensitization, environment modification, relaxation training, exposure, positive reinforcement, modeling, and social skills training". Last, if it's "cognitive" then types of counseling might include the obvious, "CBT" with a specifier like "identified dysfunctional thought patterns"; "DBT" also with a specifier like "learned or applied distress tolerance skill" or "learned or applied interpersonal effectiveness skill". We might also want to include "other" counseling interventions such as Solution-Focused, Interpersonal, Ego State, etc. 7) Positive/negative under "type of response". 8) "as evidenced by _____" here it may be worth it to include a detailed comment within a narrative box because each client is different. 9) Under recommendations, insert _____ a VERB already used in the ISP like "develop, initiate, report, use, participate, etc" to tie it all together to the treatment goals. Additional space for comments would also be a good idea as well as a narrative box to select the client's next appt as already available on the Psychiatric Notes form in Synaps. Thanks</p>
747	Schools	Fairfax county is an incredible schools system, please do not cut language immersion. I have a child in this program since 1st grade and we love the program. Please don't cut this.
748	Schools	County should offer a voluntary furloughs. United airlines offered it and many people took it to save benefits and jobs.
749	Schools	We moved from the district to Fairfax County specifically for the schools. We would be deeply disappointed if any cuts were taken in the schools. We recommend that no cuts be taken and all programs be maintained.
750	Schools	Please keep the immersion program. This program provides benefits all students in the system. It is one of the main attractors to this system. Please do not cut this vital program



## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
751	Schools	I participated in all of the band and symphonic programs in schools. I encourage you to keep all these programs striving and strong. They teach things that are not taught in the class, such as, time management, leadership, and structure. I have carried these into my adult life and feel strongly that these programs must be maintained.
752	Schools	Make sure you provide funding for the band and orchestra. It keeps kids off the street and is an essential part to the school system.
753	Schools	Please do not cut the band and strings programs in schools. It is an important program for students to learn so many different things from.
754	Schools	The bands and strings program is a feather in the cap of the FCPS. Statistics have shown that early learning of music creates so many benefits in the students academic careers. Please do not cut the Bands and strings programs.
755	Schools	I am calling to advocate for the immersion programs. These programs are important at every level. They enhance many area's of the students academic and personal life. It is important to keep these programs so we can keep our students competitive. This is the only program in the county that promotes Japanese culture.
<b>Added November 5, 2009</b>		
756	Schools	Do not cut band and orchestra from the elementary schools! Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars today, but the negative and cumulative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short-term savings. This will severely impact not only the students in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. The ability to learn music at a young age is extremely important. FCPS are known nation-wide for our outstanding music programs. Our schools have the best and brightest music educators in the country. Please do not throw decades of hard work by parents, teachers and students away to save a very small piece of the budget short-fall. Please!
757	Schools	Ask the school system to look at cuts that involved the administrative staff for FCPS, those most removed from teaching in the classroom.
758	Schools	I am writing to register my very strong opposition to making any cuts to the elementary band and orchestra programs. Not only do any incredibly high number of students (70%) participate in those programs, but eliminating those programs would decimate the middle and high school programs, as well. This would have far-reaching effects on those students who participate at those levels, including those for whom band (and for some, marching band) participation is their primary extra-curricular activity, which is important to college admissions officers. I also think there would be severe effects on the local real estate and business communities, as families would be reluctant to move to an area that could not support such a basic program as musical education. I am a very active voter--never miss an election--and I will be watching closely to see who, if any, board members or county supervisors vote to cut our outstanding band and orchestra programs, so I can do all that I can to make sure that they are removed
759	Schools	Do not cut fine arts, music programs.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
760	Schools	I find it ridiculous that they are considering eliminating the Foreign Language Immersion Programs. Not only do they provide a way to our children to compete in a global society by learning another language, eliminating the program won't save that much money because you will still need teachers to teach those classes of students. Just because you have eliminated the language program won't eliminate the children in the classroom that need to be taught. Many people come to Fairfax county because of the programs that we offer and eliminating them will just make our schools less favorable to people planning to move to our area. Once these programs are gone it will be that much harder to bring them back! Save our Foreign Language Immersion Program!
761	Schools	I believe that monies in the FY 2011 budget should be maintained for music instruction at all levels of schools, and for high school freshman and JV sports. I think that monies targeted for school expansions or renovations should be curtailed so as to make up for the budget shortfall expected. Teacher to Student ratios should be maintained.
762	Schools	I wanted to comment on the need to keep the Foreign Language programs within the Fairfax County schools budget. My children (2) attend Herndon Elementary and we moved to this area specifically to enroll our children in this program. It is one of a kind in the area and is key for children in the 20th century to be learning multiple languages at such an early age. I am not certain how the language program is any more expensive - our teachers handle the same number of students and do so using much of the same material. I would venture to guess that the scores for students enrolled in these classes is comparable if not better than the students not enrolled. If those students were to go to private school the overall SOL scores would decrease. Please consider the Foreign Language program as a valuable and marketable benefit to the school system, it is really something Fairfax County can use to attract more tax payers to their school district.
763	Schools	The instrumental music program in Fairfax County is its crown jewel. Thousands of children benefit from this wonderful program that unlike other programs is open to ALL. Keeping this program as it is It should be a budget priority.
764	County and Schools	It would be tragic to cut funding for elementary school music programs. Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars today, but the negative and cumulative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short-term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. As we all know, the ability to learn music at a young age is so important. We can't let the county cut music programs.
765	County and Schools	Do not cut music programs in our schools! Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars today, but the negative and cumulative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short-term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. As we all know, the ability to learn music at a young age is so important. We can't cut music programs.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
766	Schools	Please do not cut the Foreign Language Immersion programs. These programs are critical for our young children. If they are to survive and thrive as adults a second language is a necessity - not a luxury. Studies have showed that participation in immersion programs also increase the children's performance in all other subject areas. Please do not cut or reduce these programs.
767	Schools	I am a parent with two children in the French immersion program at Herndon Elementary School and Herndon Middle School. My daughter is in 5th grade and my son in 7th. I'm very upset about the possibility of this program being eliminated. My son is supposed to get two high school credits for the immersion 1 and immersion 2 classes at HMS. If the immersion 2 class isn't offered next year, what is he supposed to do in 8th grade? Not take French for a year? Switch to Spanish, which means this year will count for nothing? We have inconvenienced ourselves by driving our kids to HES for this program and I am infuriated that my kids will be denied the opportunity to complete it after all the time and effort that we've invested into it.
768	County	Do NOT cut the music programs.
769	Schools	Please, please, please keep the music programs, specifically orchestra and band. Music and arts are so critical in forming a young adult's ethics and intelligence. Feel free to dump on-line courses when looking for ways to cut the budget. Also, keep foreign immersion, but drop useless languages like French and German, but keep Spanish and Japanese.
770	County and Schools	Please do not eliminate any programs that would hurt the students especially the Foreign Language and Strings and Band programs. Early childhood learning in these areas will enhance their learning ability as they continue into the Middle and High School levels and beyond. Thank you.
771	Don't Know	Cutting music programs would be a severe detriment to the development of our county's children. The purpose of a public school system is not only to provide a proper education, but to allow our children to be well-rounded individuals. Music contributes to their development as much or even more so than sports do, and it is much easier to learn musical instruments at a young age. Also, Fairfax County bands are among the top high school bands in the country. This is because they are comprised of students who have had proper elementary-school-level training and instruction. Cutting elementary- and middle-school-level music programs would kill all high school music programs as well. This would, in essence, teach our children that cultural awareness and fine arts skills are not as important as sports. Is this the message we want to send our children? Many children in Fairfax County are living near the poverty line and do not have money for food, much less private instruction on musical instruments. Do we only want to limit musical education to children whose parents are affluent enough to pay for private education? Music opens doors to colleges, scholarships and the like for many children who would end up on the streets otherwise. Do not cut our schools' music programs.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
772	Schools	Surely there must be another alternative to cutting the school budget.....Our teachers are already working at capacity and are not receiving pay increases. Class size has expanded to the point where the phrase "I just have too many kids ....." is the response parents get when they consult with a teacher about extra efforts needed in the classroom (or for particular students). Music and Art are not expendable. We should be offering more full day kindergarten and special activities that will draw potential homeowners to this area. "Cutting" services simply places us at a disadvantage. I offer the following ideas: Have all "GT" students provide their own transportation to and from school. Immersion families have been doing this for years. This would save an enormous amount of funding spent for transportation. Have school audits. Are there other areas that can be slimmed down besides educational programs? Allow the "county" to buy in bulk for all school supplies - this would save additional funds. Allow school funding not only through property tax, but through sales tax as well. Consider an increase in property tax until housing prices recover. Thank you for your consideration.
773	Schools	It has come to my attention that it is possible that our school (Deer Park Elementary) may lose two music programs, Strings and Band. I would sincerely request that the programs be allowed to continue. They help students in ways other than a musical education. There are facts showing that students in these programs perform stronger in other academic areas. It would very disappointing to see a strong program such as this get cut. Thank you!
774	Schools	You need to keep elementary music education in Fairfax County!!!
775	Schools	Does FCPS pay for AP and/or IB exams for high schoolers? If so, I recommend going back to the system of having parents pay for these exams. One exception might be for students who families are in the free and reduced meal programs. FCPS should try and continue paying for the exams for those students.
776	County and Schools	Please do not cut music in elementary. Attending the orchestra/band really made a big impact to my kids' growth. It helped them to be more disciplined, confident, persevere and appreciate what music can add to their lives. This will impact the middle school and high school music program. This also has a big bearing when they go to college as well as well in their community. My daughter volunteers in the Traditional and Youth Choirs playing the viola. This also adds life during our masses every Sunday at church.
777	County and Schools	The Fairfax County foreign language immersion program is one of the key factors setting the county's public school system apart from those of other counties. It is also one of the reasons that my husband and I chose to move into Fairfax County ,and one of the reasons that we would like to stay here. The elimination of that program will be a determinant in whether we choose to stay in the county for the duration of our children's education (two kids currently in primary school) or move further out, which we have considered. I imagine that we are not alone in being drawn to the county for its top notch education system. A cut in the language immersion program may have the unintended consequence of discouraging potential new residents, which will be more deleterious to the county's budget over the long haul than the current economic shortfall.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
778	Schools	It has come to my attention that the band and strings programs at the elementary level may be cut in the 2011 budget. This would be a terrible disservice to our students and the future of our middle and high school band programs. Music is such a vital part of our students education. Introducing students to instruments and reading notes at an early level stimulates their minds and allows them to experiment with musical instruments they couldn't do on their own. This program is open to all regardless of income level. Without this program, our upper level band/orchestra programs would suffer and music would be limited to those that could afford to pay for outside lessons. Please keep these programs going. My son is in his 2nd year of band and it is what he looks forward to most in the school week. He would never have the opportunity to learn percussion at home! Thank you, Parent - 6th grader and 9th grader, FFX County Public Schools
779	Schools	Do not cut school music programs, language programs or arts programs. They are the very programs that distinguish FCPS from the rest of the country in education. It increases the values of our children's education and the value of our homes because of our currently GREAT school system. Don't destroy what makes FCPS truly unique and wonderful!! I'll pay more in taxes. I am the mother of 4 AND all our kids deserve the best. I should say I am also a teacher, but I am willing to go without a pay raise AND pay higher taxes to maintain our schools!!
780	County and Schools	Do not cut music programs.
781	Schools	In many of the elementary school counselors are ineffective and teach the same lessons teachers could do. I purpose cutting their positions before you eliminate the arts. Also the county could save so much money assigning someone to check free and reduced lunch applications. Many of the children need this service but many are bucking the system who are receiving it. I was a teacher for 14 years in the county and have tried to report abuse and it has fallen on empty ears. Parents with BMW, full time help, houses and such are receiving these free services. Stop penalizing the Mclean schools who provide the state with much of their tax income and be fair to those students. Not everyone can learn in a large classroom.
782	Schools	Keep music in our elementary schools.
783	Schools	I disagree with any school cuts planned for our schools. Particularly, Haycock ES
784	County	Cutting the budget for bands and orchestra would be disastrous for the long-term health of Fairfax County Public Schools. I understand that something needs to be done and that everyone has their cause they do not want see harmed. But eliminating these programs would leave thousands of children without wonderful ways to learn how to work as a team, make friends and build relationships with worthy adult mentors, not to mention enhance the musical talents that have been ranked #1 in the country on numerous occasions.
785	Schools	I oppose the idea of cutting elementary band and orchestra programs as a cost saving measure. My children have benefited enormously from the discipline and practice required to master an instrument. Many parents will not be able to afford private lessons for their children. This means that the middle and high school band/orchestra experience will be negatively affected by a smaller pool of players. Band has been one of the "best values" of the public school experience. Cuts should be made in administrative offices rather than in student areas.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
786	Schools	Hello - I am writing in very strong support of the immersion programs in elementary schools. It would be short sighted in the extreme for Fairfax to eliminate programs that help our kids learn languages at an early age, thereby enabling them to compete more effectively in an increasingly globalized market - and therefore helping both the county and the USA! I am a product of such early education and it propelled me to fantastic heights - I have advised a leading US Senator, was a US Diplomat and now lead the US division of a foreign company. Please please do not hamstringing our county and our nation by eliminating this program. It is one of the main things that brought me here in the first place. Thank you for your consideration and please remember, your decisions will resonate in the next election.
787	Schools	Please do not eliminate music and musical instrument instruction at any level, especially elementary level. Learning an instrument requires concentration and diligence, both traits that students at all levels need. Plus, the ability to make music is rewarding and enriching for the student and all around him/her. Student participation in bands and orchestras teaches the value of engaging in group activity, following a director, reading music, learning music theory to become a composer or teacher or just for personal enrichment. Not every student can afford private lessons, and even private lessons do not provide an opportunity to share music with peers. A small budget savings would result in a substantial loss that goes beyond dollars and would significantly harm the middle and high school music programs.
788	County	Please don't make any cuts to the band or strings programs. These are among very finest programs in the country and we should support them to the fullest.
789	Schools	I suggest that you do not cut elementary band and orchestra programs. It is only save us a portion of the budget. It is important for all children to have the experience of music in school-it helps them grow not only mentally, but socially and physically as well. It is imperative that the music programs are kept in elementary schools. Please do consider this need. Thank you.
790	County and Schools	My children are neither special needs nor GT, and so I am not biased to either group. That said, I think that the School Board must look to making the unpopular decision to cutting some of the funding to the GT program. Not once in all the years that I have lived in Fairfax County do I recall any conversation of touching the 'golden' GT program, regardless of other budget constraints. The board seems to think of it as the 'cash cow' for the county, using it to draw a particular population, and to set Fairfax County above the rest in the country. However, I think that it is misdirecting funds to a relatively small population of students, some of which, in my opinion, do not belong in the program. Additionally, I do not believe that the numbers enrolled in the GT program at the elementary level are really indicative of the truly GT student. In my opinion, many of these students have been 'forced' into the system by persistent parents who 'feel' that their

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		<p>child belongs there. Very few students in the elementary grades are "GT across the board." Very few students are that accelerated in ALL the subjects. Our elementary school does leveled math (perhaps they are calling it something else now), where students pre-test each math chapter and the students are shifted based on their performance and knowledge at the beginning of the chapter/section. I have substituted for many years, many times in the GT classes, and do not see a marked difference in these students. Additionally, the numbers in our GT classes has grown such that it seems we have an equal number of students in the GT and regular ed classes. I truly doubt that half of our population is sincerely that advanced. I believe it would be a better use of funds to level the classes for each subject. Additionally, I believe that the transportation costs to send students to TJ are ridiculous. I believe that if a student seeks that 'type' of education, there should be an assessment tied to it, if, for no other reason, to pay for the additional costs associated to send them there. Busing these students DOES cost additional funds, and I don't believe that I should have to pay for them. I also believe that any students that attend TJ from outside of Fairfax County should do so be assessed a fee (or whatever you want to call it) to attend, regardless of what the means of transportation is to get them there. You are considering cutting the costs of providing education to those students at the low end of the learning scale at the cost of those students at the high end. That just seems wrong. Your task is to provide a level of education to students, all students. If there are students who need to supplement, then it is done at a cost to the student or supplemented outside the system. Cutting the low end is not the answer. I know it is not the popular decision, but it is the fair and right thing. Compare the costs of reg ed and GT students per year, equal the amount spent, and I can justify. Right now I can't believe services provided to GT equals or is less than reg ed or special ed students. Also, cut administrative costs - I'm sure there are many areas that still need to be looked at.</p> <p>I applaud the recent move to turn admin buildings to classrooms. Continue to look to those solutions outside the box. Stop the retreats and extra spending. When my budget tightens I don't go on vacations or work-related travel, nor do I buy lunch for friends or throw parties. Spend as if you were a blue-collar family. I also applaud you for re-working the busing routes to save money without making cuts. However, why do we pay for taxis to send students to school when they have been suspended or otherwise sent to alternative schools? Why, also, do we have buses with so few students on them that I can count them on one hand? This seems like a waste of taxpayer funds. These are a few suggestions, and I appreciate the opportunity to share in the process. Thank you.</p>
791	County	<p>Please restore budget cuts and provide strong support for the public library system. In times of economic hardship libraries become even more important to many people. They provide free reading material, access to computers, community and job search information and a welcoming local place to spend time. My local library in Reston is heavily used and is already too limited for the demand. Please do not cut any more funds from the library budget. Reston, VA</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
792	Schools	In response to the 2010-11 budget cuts. I strongly oppose the cuts in full day kindergarten and the elementary music program. Both of these programs focus on the entire population of the school and are open to everyone. Full day kindergarten is a no brainer, for one, the curriculum the teachers are required to cover would be impossible in a half day program and where are all these children going to go? In school child care already have waitlists a mile long and it is also another expense that families will have to burden in this poor economy. Music should be an integral part of our schools focus. The fine arts are very important for a well rounded child and many of these children would not have the chance to study an instrument if it is not offered in schools. If we want Fairfax County to stay on the top of the list in terms of education then we need to put these items on top of the list of necessary parts of a child's education. If it were my choice I would cut the foreign language programs, these were implemented as an extra and that's how they should be treated. We need to focus on the core of the curriculum, and if parents are really interested in foreign language then there are the FLEX programs that the PTA can sponsor before or after school. I hope my comments have some impact because as a Fairfax County native with children in the school system currently, I would hate to see this county regress and make the wrong choices.
793	Schools	Please continue to fully fund and support the arts and music programs in Fairfax/Falls Church schools. Almost 75% of students participate in orchestra/strings programs, and all students participate in music and arts programs, which enhances their overall learning experiences, and can benefit and enrich the lives of the students, their families, and the communities where they live. Thank you
794	Schools	please continue to fund learning enrichment programs for gifted, talented, and twice-excepted students. Not all parents of gifted students can afford to provide enrichment classes outside of school, or can drive to locations where other activities might be offered. Thank you
795	County and Schools	Please don't mortgage our children's futures by cutting out music programs from the school budget. It is a short term band-aid that will have little overall effect on the budget shortfall but will have a long term negative impact on our children and the quality of education in the county. <b>DON'T CUT MUSIC PROGRAMS!!!!</b>
796	County and Schools	I've looked at the list of potential cuts to schools posted at the FPCS website, and agree with some (charge students for AP/IB exams, charge for sports and other activities, reduce or eliminate full-day kindergarten), and disagree with others (eliminate music programs in elementary school), but the bottom line is that even if all the listed cuts were made, it would not make up for the budget shortfall. (And yes, paying for tests and sports/activities would affect my family, so I am not just trying to cut off services to others). To be sure, it is time to make some difficult decisions on schools, libraries, public safety and other programs, but it is also time to have a serious discussion on taxes. If we want Fairfax County to remain the kind of place we want to live and raise our children, we need to step up and pay for it.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
797	Schools	<p>Please preserve arts funding in the schools, including band and orchestra in elementary school. What a shame it would be if FCPS were to sacrifice a curricular area that has BOTH been shown to play a major positive role in overall student achievement AND in which FCPS is already a national leader. Top universities in the US--Harvard, Yale, and Stanford--have just started funding huge "Arts Initiative" programs in their curriculum because cognitive science research has revealed that creative endeavors very much improve critical thinking. These top universities have concluded that arts should not and cannot be relegated to extra-curricular status, but must be a part of the main curriculum if we want our students to develop high order reasoning skills, which is the ultimate goal of education. The research on the importance of the arts is clear. You can read more about it here, in this article from the Harvard Magazine.</p> <p><a href="http://harvardmagazine.com/2008/01/approaching-the-arts-ane.html">http://harvardmagazine.com/2008/01/approaching-the-arts-ane.html</a></p>
798	County and Schools	<p>I strongly believe that cutting funding for music education in schools will have a devastating effect on students and schools in the future. Cutting elementary school music classes will hurt middle and high school music programs in years to come. Music programs provide a safe and effective place for students to involve themselves in, learn to express themselves confidently, and to become a family with groups of well-rounded individuals to learn about things bigger than just a piece of music.</p>
799	Schools	<p>I'm parent of Spanish Immersion Student. Please do not eliminate Spanish Immersion in the schools. My child has been attending Spanish Immersion since Kindergarten. She and most of her classmates score high on SOLS and the majority are in the Gifted and Talented program. Please consider eliminated the other languages ( French, German) other than Spanish. Fairfax County has a high Latino population.</p>
800	County and Schools	<p>Dear Board Members: I am the parent of a Belle View ES student who is in band and chorus, and was in the string program in 4th grade. I strongly oppose elimination of the Fairfax County Elementary Band And String program in the FY2011 Budget. While the school system faces a \$176 million deficit, eliminating a program that serves 28,000 students and provides long term benefits for the children and the schools they attend after elementary schools is not acceptable. This will reduce academic and music education at the beginning of a child's school years and in a short time decimate our secondary school bands and orchestras. Band and strings in elementary schools benefits academic learning -- many studies show this. Music and academic programs benefit students as a package -- they also make a difference in academic learning and confidence and achievement for children with learning differences such as ADHD. I support the position on this issue of the Fairfax Arts Coalition for Education, and so should each of you if you value all the Fairfax County Public School system has achieved. Last year, 24,871 students were enrolled in band and strings which represents approximately 70% of all 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students in FCPS! And our elementary band and strings programs continue to grow annually. Fairfax County has a long tradition of excellence in the arts and academics. This idea of removing this program for elementary students in a tough economy is short sighted and counterproductive to helping children learn both academics and the arts.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
801	County and Schools	Please do not eliminate the strings and band programs in Fairfax County Schools. Music education is a vital component to well educated children and contributes to their success in math and science as well.
802	County and Schools	As a parent of a child in a French partial-immersion program, I would like to voice my strong objection to the immersion programs being cut in any way. These wonderful, unique programs are part of what makes Fairfax County an exceptional school system. I also feel that it would be extremely disruptive to the overall education of the children currently enrolled in immersion programs. I realize that cuts must be made. I have another child at a GT center and I would gladly accept the elimination of GT busing, although it means I would have to drive her to school every day. Also, although she very much enjoys the FLES program at her school, I think the overall impact on her education would be minimal if the FLES program was eliminated.
803	Schools	I recently heard that the school system is considering cutting the FCPS music budget. Please reconsider! The most important reason not to do this is that music has been shown to improve the development of children's brains: <a href="http://news.softpedia.com/news/How-Music-Influences-Brain-Development-36063.shtml">http://news.softpedia.com/news/How-Music-Influences-Brain-Development-36063.shtml</a> . This is but one of thousands of studies that prove that children and adults benefit in dramatic ways to studying and performing (not just listening to) music. If anything, all students should be REQUIRED to learn an instrument as a core subject. No other subject has the impact on brain development! Acquiring the confidence and skill that it takes is tremendously important to the growth of their brains and temperaments.
804	Schools	How much money is spent in Fairfax County on sending teachers to student's homes? Students who are expelled as a punishment for drugs, violence, etc., become a burden by soaking up teacher resources that could be put to better use on students who are out of school for more legitimate reasons like medical issues. Why should expelled students get to sit at home and burn resources with their very own private tutors? Instead, they should go to school and remain in school after hours to perform custodial tasks.
805	Schools	Do NOT cut instrumental music in elementary schools. It's short sighted and it will not save money in the long run - no band/orchestra in elem = smaller band/orchestra in middle and high school. Smaller secondary performing groups mean more cost to FCPS - bands and orchestra teachers have 40 or more kids per class. Without large performing groups - students have to be in classes somewhere else - in smaller classes than typical band/orchestra classes - which means more teachers. Besides, don't we want our children learning the self discipline, the ability to work cooperatively and the higher ordered thinking skills that accompany music education? I'm sure there are a significant number of students who continue to show up for high school because of band and orchestra. If they don't start in elementary school, it'll be too late for many of those students. And bottom line in today's No Child Left Behind world: research shows students score better on standardized tests when they play in band and orchestra. There is every reason in the world to keep this program alive and well.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
806	Schools	Keep the Immersion Programs in FFX County. People want to move to FFX County because of the language Immersion programs. This program distinguishes FFX County from other counties. Go back to half day KG in the schools. We all had it when we were growing up!
807	County and Schools	PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSIC AND ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS. THESE CHILDREN NEED THIS BENEFIT IF THEY CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE. THE COST CUT HARDLY WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE BUDGET DEFICIT. OUR FOUR CHILDREN HAVE ALL PARTICIPATED IN THIS PROGRAM AND CANCELING IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.
808		Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars today, but the negative and cumulative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short-term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. As we all know, the ability to learn music at a young age is so important. We can't let the county cut music programs.
809	Schools	When we moved to the Washington, D.C. area, we chose to live in Fairfax County because of the quality of the schools. We feel that band and orchestra programs are extremely important to producing well rounded students. This includes the elementary programs which feed the excellent upper level bands. These programs should not be cut in the current round of budget cuts. Thank you.
810	County	I think that we must be sure to continue to fund our county libraries. We need educated people to make important decisions in our community. Our public libraries are such an important resource to all our county citizens.
811	County and Schools	I have heard of a proposal to cut string orchestra programs in Fairfax County Schools. I would urge the members of the committee NOT to make cuts in this area. My daughter was a "C" average student in elementary school, but after she began active participation in instrumental music as a cellist in the school string program she started bringing home mostly "A"s with very few "B"s and nothing lower. This change precipitated almost overnight, and was directly in conjunction with the timing of her taking up the cello at school. Brain pathways are built best through a variety of constructive activity, and if you take this away from the kids, especially at the elementary level, you will be robbing them of a valuable tool for achieving their greatest academic potential later on. I urge you to find some other way to make the budget.
812	County and Schools	Do not cut funding for the Arts (music, arts, crafts) in schools. These programs are a vital training opportunity for our children as they grow into adults.
813	County	Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars now, but the total negative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short-term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. Starting music at a young age is so important. We can't let the county cut music programs.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
814	County and Schools	I am in high school band at Robinson Secondary. Cutting band/orchestra from elementary students would be a big mistake. I know that for me, it was one of the best things of elementary school. It helped me appreciate music and it's something that kids can do instead of spending endless hours in front of the tv or computer.
815	County and Schools	I've three children that attend Fairfax County Public School. I'm honored that my kids are part of such a great school system. My oldest child has been involve with music since the age of 5, which in return sparked an interest with my younger children so now plays an instrument at Ft. Belvoir Elem. Music is a very important part of my children life and it would be such a disappointment to see music cut in the elementary school.
816	County	Is there any way to change the election schedule or rules to avoid what happened spring 2009 with the endless elections? It was sad to see the election office working nonstop and to learn that their agency didn't even have a holiday party between the presidential election and the spring elections.
817	County and Schools	I've heard several people say they look for ways to share county resources so different groups don't repeat expenses, but there are obvious overlaps that go unaddressed. Assigning a person or office to administer this probably won't work--but how about encouraging efficiencies by rewarding smart sharing? I'd rather see a county employee thanked with \$100 than see the parks order something the schools already have available.
818	Schools	Please do not cut the budget for elementary school music programs. They have been vital in the lives of my children and give them a great source of accomplishment which spreads over to help them achieve more in their other subjects. There must be other areas to cut taxes to help our children to achieve all that they can through their school years. Thank You
819	County	Why does our county pay for AP and IB exams? This gives students college credit and should thus be borne by the students. I know that Jay Mathews challenge index probably influences this, but why don't we just opt out of his whole thing? One person should not influence us to spend so much money just to receive a (in some opinions, flawed) ranking. I recently learned that IB diplomas cost in the neighborhood of \$700-\$800. How in the world is the county paying for this, esp when the IB diploma (while noted as being very good) is not even accepted by many colleges? Even if they kept these two items, they could limit it to 25% or something. Why does the county bear the cost of the PSAT for 10th graders? This test helps practice for the SAT, but ultimately counts for almost nothing, since very few scholarships come out of it.
820	Schools	Please don't cut the music program from the schools. The high school music program with the marching band is all american fun.
821	Schools	Music should not be eliminated at the elementary school level. Music is too important on so many levels.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
822	Schools	The School Based Technology Specialist (SBTS) positions are needed at every school. I have taught for 22 years in Fairfax County and have found our SBTS person to be an invaluable resource to me and all of our staff. In the age of technology, we simply cannot eliminate this important position from our schools. It would be a giant step backward. Also, as a parent of two sons who were involved in the band programs in Fairfax County, I strongly urge you to NOT eliminate any of the music program positions. Both of my sons went on to earn degrees in the music field and are employed as professional musicians. This program is too important to be considered for elimination. Thank you for considering the above concerns.
823	County and Schools	Before deciding on the short term budget solution of eliminating all elementary school band and orchestra programs, as proposed, please consider the negative long term impact this will have on the students who wish to participate in these programs, and on the excellent middle and high school band programs for which Fairfax County is known. With the dramatic increase in Fairfax County property taxes over the past decade (mine has increased by over \$2,500 per year) there is should have been by now hundreds of millions of extra dollars in rainy day funds which can be redirected to the schools and Fairfax County services. Perhaps a detailed audit is in order.
824	Schools	DO NOT CUT THE BAND PROGRAM IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. THIS WOULD BE A HUGE SETBACK FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY AND OUR CHILDREN
825	Schools	I understand you are considering cutting the school budget for the upcoming year (s). Please do not cut the Band Budget, please help us to get rid of the trailers, please help parents to keep class size low and I am concerned about the combined classes. I am a parent who has a son in the Fairfax County School system. While I think the FLEX program is a good, I believe it should be available to all children regardless of the ability to pay. Foreign Language should be a part of the core subjects that children take. Thanks,

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
826	Schools	As the parent of three children, two of whom have graduated from FCPS ('07 and '09) and one currently in eighth grade, I would like to plead with county decision makers about keeping music programs alive in the FCPS. My oldest child, now a junior at JMU, joined the chorus in her elementary school. Her music teacher recommended she audition for the Children's Chorus of Washington, which she successfully joined in the sixth grade. Her love of music sustained her through the remainder of her FCPS education. It brought so much joy and stability to her at times when her workloads were stressful and consuming. My oldest son joined the Strings program in fourth grade at his ES, and because he was introduced to the joy of music at such an early age, he chose to continue through twelfth grade, playing in all the advanced orchestras at his school. His love of music prompted him to also join the chorus and guitar ensemble in high school. I cannot fathom how much they would have missed out on if they had not been introduced to music at the elementary school level. My youngest child also was introduced to the strings program in fourth grade. He continues to play at the advanced level in middle school, and he looks forward to the challenges and joys of high school orchestra. A public education must prepare our children for the rigors and challenges that they will encounter in college or whatever they pursue after high school. Music is such a positive element for these children/young adults. The years of playing beautiful music with their peers gives them and their parents/community such joy, and also builds lifelong pride and love of music. Please do not take this from our children. Attend a high school orchestra, chorus, or band concert and see for yourselves what amazing things these students can accomplish. Thank you.
827	County and Schools	Please do NOT cut the strings and band out of the Elementary Schools! Learning in 7th grade is way too late! Music really helps children learn in reading and in math.
828	Schools	In reviewing your list of potential budget cuts, I believe the following are the most important: 1) Give the teachers raises. We can not maintain the level of education we have in the county without treating our teachers well. 2) Do not cut Instructional Assistants, Guidance Counselors, Psychologists, Social Workers, or Custodians. 3) Do not reduce school-based Technology Specialists. Many of the other items are wonderful programs, but are "extras", such as foreign language immersion, band, strings, and foreign languages in elementary schools.
829	Schools	I have been a tchr and perf. of music for many yrs. The education of our children cannot stand the elimination of elementary sch. band and orch. programs. Musical instrument study positively affects the mind in the areas of math and language. If you think you are going to improve the schools by taking music away, you are misguided. Music is a necessary discipline, not a luxury commodity. Accomplished performance of music is a way of entry to college that is as validating as sports activities are. Instead of removing music, take away his football instead and use those monies to keep music in the elementary grades. The barbarism of football does much less to develop Self than performance opportunities in the arts. If you remove music, you will send the message to the children that it is not important, which would be a sad, tragic message, indeed.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
830	Don't Know	Do not remove music from a child's life. It is too important and will effect high school band activities in the long run. Let's save money by not trying to update on so many electronics. Also, we can make sure that lights and electricity in the buildings are off as well.
831	Schools	Please do not cut the Language Immersion Program and FLES!! The immersion program has been around for 20 years and would take a generation to bring back if it disappears for even 1 year. My wife and I moved to this county to take advantage of all the benefits, INCLUDING the schools. One of our main requirements was proximity to quality education. Fox Mill Elementary and the Japanese Language Immersion is why we live in Oak Hill. Our oldest daughter just started the immersion program and we hope that our twin daughters will also enter the program in 3 years. I am currently taking the ACE Japanese language course for parents of immersion students. My wife and I have been residents of Fairfax County for over 10 years and significantly contributed. If the schools lose their luster then we will consider moving out of the county. Considering our home value of over a \$500,000 and combined income over \$200,000. Please do not touch the Language program, especially given that it is equivalent to a Gifted and Talented program and is extremely beneficial. Please cut wasteful projects and non-educator positions (yes, there is fat to trim) and save this modest \$3.4m program. Thank you!
832	Schools	To even think of taking away the school music programs...what are you thinking? Take your over paid superintendent and have him come up with a smarter way to balance this budget without impacting the kids any further!
833	Schools	As a Fairfax County teacher, I strongly believe that it would be a huge mistake to reduce the SBTS positions in Fairfax County Schools. They provide integral support and instruction to staff members and students alike on a daily basis, and are absolutely necessary to the FCPS vision statement of preparing students for the future and incorporating technology into education. Full-day Kindergarten is another necessity. It has radically improved the readiness of students for the demands of first grade-- particularly language minority students. The numbers of students requiring ESOL services in our school has noticeably declined since we moved to a full-day Kindergarten.
834	Schools	Please do not eliminate foreign language in our elementary schools! Language acquisition is most effective between 6-12 years of age. I wondered if a daily or 3 times a week language lesson could help bridge the gap, but I understand that would not give kids enough Japanese to be able to accelerate their learning and reach the AP level by high school. We at GFES support JIP! Please consider cutting other programs. I wish buses for kids with GT-center programs at their home schools had been (or would be) cut -- my daughter is center-eligible, but I believe I should have to drive to the GT center to pursue that option. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
835	County	hello, I would hope that the county will eliminate transportation to GT Centers when there is a local Level 4 Center at the GT student's home school. I think it is grossly unequal that transportation is provided to GT student centers when no transportation is provided for children who want to attend a different school based on failing test scores due to "No Child Left Behind". Our GT students should not get preferential treatment and upgraded options when compared to all other students.
836	County and Schools	Dear Fairfax County Reps, I am writing to register my concern that the elementary and secondary music programs NOT be cut. I see the music programs as extremely important to creating and sustaining well-rounded individuals and a well-rounded society. I am adamantly against any cut in the funding of music programs. If cuts must be made, I propose cutting the technology funding in our schools. While much money has been spent on technology in the last decade, there is absolutely no evidence that shows a correlation between technology and improved student achievement in the core classes. Thank you.
837	Schools	I am very worried about the budget cuts directed at the Fairfax County Public Schools. One of the biggest strengths of Fairfax County Schools is our public school system. Programs such as FLES and Immersion programs, band and orchestra in the elementary schools, full day kindergarten and small class sizes are all elements that make our school district so great. The success our district has is reflected in NAEP scores, and is recognized across the country. People and businesses MOVE to fairfax county because of these great programs. The district's success does not come out of a vacuum, but as a result of all of these programs. Do not try to fix a short-term budget problem with a solution that will have long-term effects on not only the future, but the present state of our county. As a home owner and a tax payer, I would rather pay more taxes than see these programs disappear. Without a great school district, we will see our county slip and become like PG County or Baltimore City - high in crime, low in education. Please do not allow that to happen!
838	County and Schools	Please do not cut the band programs at the elementary, middle school or high school levels. Both of my sons participate in these programs and I cannot begin to elaborate on what these programs have brought into their lives especially for my oldest son who is an exceptional child with an extensive IEP. These musical offerings have opened doors for him that we never thought possible- the amount saved versus the amount lost does not seem to be cost effective when noted all across the board on many levels beyond just dollar cost. I would ask that you consider keeping the programs and perhaps as a means of offsetting the cost we raise the fees we pay from \$50 to perhaps \$75 and paying a small fee in the elementary school such as \$20 to \$25. I am sure this will help to make up some of the cost savings you project by completely cutting these programs.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
839	Schools	The latest discussion list includes cutting 5% of Non-school based staffing, roughly 87 staff members in total from 1,600 non-school based staff. If we are cutting staffing at schools by 10 to 20%, there must be a way to cut every possible individual who doesn't teach and leave the classrooms as is. If we don't have adequate teachers, how can we possibly use Instructional Coaches or the entire department of Instructional Services? Teachers are more important than the technical gadgets OR those that support them. More importantly, listen to what my child's teacher has to say about the budget.
840	Schools	I recently learned that the remaining "community budget dialogue" meetings are full and that no further registrations are being permitted. Is that correct? If so, please let me know whether there is any chance that either the remaining meetings can be re-opened or additional meetings on these issues can be scheduled and conducted for the citizens of the County. I would like to attend such meetings because I understand that the County is considering adopting a 2011 budget that would result in significant cuts to vital programs provided by the school system. Such cuts would be infuriating to me, as my wife and I (and most people we know) moved to Fairfax County primarily because of the excellent schools. This may sound odd in a country in which people only seem to complain about their civic financial obligations, but I happily pay taxes to support the County. I do so because I believe the County is reasonably well run, and because FCPS provides top-quality educational opportunities to a tremendous number of children. I am fortunate to be able to pay taxes to support such excellent schooling for, among many others, my two children. If the County's short-term crisis results in cutting vital school programs that are necessary for Fairfax schools remain as some of the best in the Nation (and that can't be quickly re-built when the crisis subsides), that would be short-sighted and tragic. In short, I would like the opportunity to learn the details of the budgetary issues and participate in a dialogue with County and elected officials regarding these issues of extreme importance to me and my family. Please let me know whether additional meetings can be scheduled.
841	Schools	Please, please, please do not increase the size of AAP classes. My oldest daughter is now in 8th grade, but when she was in GT at CRES her class had 32 students. My middle daughter just started 3rd grade...and her class is already bursting at the seams. But adding one more will just start the trend toward a too-large class.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
842	County and Schools	Do NOT cut any funding for music programs at any level. I am a graduate of the United States Military and war veteran about to leave on my second tour within three years. In all my experiences the one thing that with me and continually provided support and happiness wherever I was the ability to participate in music. I took music with me on my first tour and was able to just walk up to the 101st Airborne Division Band and ask to play, and because of the kind of people music programs create, they did not hesitate to welcome me. Living and working around the world has separated me from many friends, but the ones I am most in touch with still are the ones from Band. It breaks my heart to imagine a generation of children denied the amazing opportunities for fun and personal growth that have meant so much to my life. I did not grow up to be a professional musician, but I did grow up to be a professional. I could not have been as successful as I am without the leadership and life skills I learned in Band. Please do not take these opportunities away from the Fairfax County students.
843	Schools	Regarding the thought of cutting Orchestra in Elementary school, my son has Asperger's and had no friends in Elementary. We saw in the elementary school Orchestra no one was playing upright bass, so we encouraged him to. In middle school he made district orchestra. He used what he learned to play bass guitar, and in 8th grade, he was asked to play with the church youth band. He is now a 9th grader and plays in the HS Orchestra and the church band. He now has friends and confidence. Without the opportunity in elementary, we would have had no option or insight into this opportunity. Also, many HS kids are not going to want to be a beginner and sound bad in front of people. With training in elementary, they can sound good by the time they make it to MS and great in HS. My son now has musical skill he can use for the rest of his life and, music has helped his analytical skills, which is helping him now in school subjects. Sports are important and popular, and they teach teamwork, but very few students play past the high school level. Music can last and be enjoyed a lifetime. I know, my uncle still plays the trumpet he learned as a kid in a band. He is 92.
844	Schools	Do not cut the language programs (Immersion and FLES) in Fairfax County.
845	Schools	Please keep the Spanish Immersion program in London Towne Elementary!
846	Schools	Save Immersion Programs Immersion are a major draw to our school system and provide well documented increase in student performance. Do not cut this 20 year old program. Perhaps charging a tuition to parents enrolled would bridge the gap on this account. DONT CUT IMMERSION!
847	Schools	I moved to Herndon so that my daughters could be part of the French Immersion program. I LOVE the program, and have arranged my life around it, accepting a very long commute and mediocre housing. If the French Immersion program is discontinued, I am moving out of Fairfax County. Either to Arlington, which offers a much shorter commute into DC and still has language immersion programs, or to Ashburn, with its newer and cheaper housing, and a lower crime rate than Herndon offers. PLEASE maintain the immersion program. Fairfax's success is driven, in large part, by its excellent schools. Keep them excellent!

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
848		It has recently come to my attention that the elementary band and orchestra music education may be part of the budget cuts. Please reconsider cutting this valuable program. All three of my children have been involved with either band or orchestra at the elementary level. I believe it made them all better students and enriched their education in so many ways. I'm sure there are numerous studies which support the claim that music makes our children better students. Currently, my son is participating in marching band in high school. I can't begin to tell you what a wonderful experience this has been. I'm sure that middle school and high school bands will be impacted negatively with the lack of a strong elementary band experience. While activity fees are never popular among parents, I'm sure many would consider them if such a valuable program as music education would be saved.
849	Schools	I've seen first hand the result of cutting music out of the elementary school. You WILL NOT have a band or an orchestra at the middle or high school level! Most parents don't have the time or money to introduce or take their children to private lessons. Therefore resulting in only a very small number if any arriving at the middle school level to form anything at all. Oh and lets not mention competitions, they won't be able to compete. Learning music in the formative years is easier and better in the long run. I place shame on the County for even considering cutting a program that has been effective through out the years.
850	Schools	In the allocation of budgets, the criteria should always be to determine which programs reach the greatest number of students in the most positive ways. The FCPS music programs must be a top priority. Last year, 24,871 (70% of all 4th, 5th and 6th grade) students were enrolled in the elementary band and strings programs. This represented approximately 117 teaching positions and is growing every year. Please keep this in mind when budgets for 2011 are allocated.
851	Schools	I highly support not decreasing any funds transferred to FCPS. We moved 8 years ago to this area for the schools and every dime counts towards the great education and reputation of the schools in this area!
852	Schools	Please, please, please retain Bailey's Elementary School for Arts & Sciences' magnet status as well as out-of-boundary bussing for the school. This is the top item of concern for our household. Thanks.
853	Schools	Please do not cut the elementary band and orchestra programs in Fairfax County.
854	County and Schools	I think many children are struggling at this time with the class sizes and if we increase to larger classes, they will not get the most out of learning. I would love to see FCPS be different and be creative in finding a solution to avoid that. As a parent that cares, I am willing to do what it takes to find a solution and avoid that and instead, increase the amount of teachers in the county instead. Thank you,
855	Schools	Please do not cut strings and bands from our schools. My son is in 3rd grade and has not had an opportunity to participate yet and I think it would be a shame if he does not get that opportunity.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
856	County and Schools	My children both attended Fairfax County schools and were involved in band and chorus from elementary through high school. They are young adults now, but still very active musically. The foundation they received in elementary school is what brought them to where they are today, both musically and academically. The teamwork & discipline learned in music are unmatched in any other core curriculum subject. Cutting those programs at any level would be an out and out crime.
857	County and Schools	Cutting the band and strings programs to help make up for a projected budget shortfall is cutting the nose to spite the face. The savings will be temporary, the damage long-lasting to those programs and the quality of education in Fairfax County as a whole. Is this what we really want? If we do, I will no longer be proud to call myself a resident of Fairfax County.
858	County and Schools	Do not cut Elementary school music programs
859	Schools	I know money is tight, and you're looking to make budget cuts in our schools, but please do NOT cut music from our schools. We know that music education positively helps kids in other subjects and we need the arts. Save our music programs. Thanks for listening.
860	Schools	I read about the school office relocation and wonder why employees who work closer to the Fair Ridge location are being moved to Gatehouse and employees who currently work in Gatehouse are being moved out to the Fair Ridge location. In addition, it appears employees are being relocated past Gatehouse to Fair Ridge. It seems that tax payer monies are being used inefficiently, especially at a time when there is a projected shortfall in the budget. Wouldn't it seem more logical to keep employees at Gatehouse since they are already there and Gatehouse is the central admin building and move employees who are in leased office buildings to Fair Ridge since it is closer to where they are now as FCPS is leasing new space? Thank you.
861	Schools	Please do not cut elementary school music programs. Children whose parents cannot afford private music education are further marginalized. They are held back and fall behind those who can and do develop their music abilities for no reason other than money. Music education at the elementary level offers all children to expand their future educational options, be that university scholarships or merely an opportunity to build self esteem and confidence. Please fully fund elementary music!
862	Schools	Please preserve music education in Fairfax County! We have one of, if not THE best music education program in the United States. It is a draw for folks who move to this area.
863	Schools	Please don't cut FCPS band and strings. Cutting the elementary programs will destroy the secondary schools' programs as well. Look at how Loudoun County's music programs are struggling without elementary band and string programs! I am a private violin teacher living in Loudoun, but teaching in Fairfax because it is impossible to get students out here. Countless studies have shown the benefits of music in the schools. Please don't take this away from the kids who are thriving as new musicians.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
864	Schools	Dear Fairfax County School Board, Please do not cut the music programs for the elementary schools in our county. This deprivation would have a profound affect on our children as the introduction to music at an instructional level ideally begins at the elementary ages. If our children are deprived of this benefit then they will most likely lose any desire or curiosity they might have for music at the upper grades. Music is like learning a language. The earlier the ear is introduced to the sounds and our minds to music theory the easier it is for the children to learn these skills and integrate them into their everyday lives. Children learn rapidly at the elementary school ages and the potential to excel is far greater when children are exposed to music at the younger ages. Beside the obvious enjoyment and soothing properties of music, studies have shown that music benefits and enhances the problem solving and cognitive abilities in our children's brains. We often overlook this benefit in our society and take this for granted. Fiscally, it doesn't make enough difference (only 7 million saved out of 176 million) to warrant the harm it would cause by not allowing the music programs to continue. Please do not rob our children of these benefits of the gift of music. Surely together we can find an alternative financial solution. I thank you for your kind attention.
865	Schools	Do not eliminate band and strings from the elementary schools. If it were not for Jim Cooper's guidance and encouragement our daughter would not be doing what she is today -- teaching music to elementary school students.
866	Schools	Foreign language programs are in integral part of a well-rounded education. These programs should not be eliminated under any circumstances and should be maintained and improved as much as possible. I would prefer to see cuts in the fatter budgets of sports programs in order to preserve foreign language programs. Thank you.
867		Please do not take Orchestra and Band studies out of the children's programs. This would be doing the children a great disservice.
868	Schools	Please don't cut instrumental music programs (band and strings) in our elementary schools. These programs provide huge benefits to the students and are actually relatively cost-efficient (larger class sizes, teachers tend to teach at multiple elementary schools already). It would be an extreme disservice to our children to take these programs and their benefits away.
869	Schools	Please do not cut funding for elementary school band and orchestra programs. These programs are a wonderful use of students' time, furthering their music education and providing opportunities for friendship. Surely, wealthy Fairfax County can afford to provide elementary students with band and orchestra programs.
870	County and Schools	Priorities and concerns from last year's dialogues are the same. Rather than talking reductions, start every program with zero. Think of long-term benefits to the County rather than immediate personal (political) impact. Eliminate only those programs you know are of no lasting value. Everyone (public safety, public schools, public works included) can and will have to do with less. We are already clipping coupons and applying 1930s wisdom (repair, reuse or do without) are you?

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
871	Schools	Please do not cut elementary school band and strings. This impacts 70% of elementary school students, who by starting at a younger age, decide to stay with music throughout high school. studying music performance is proven to make kids smarter in cognitive abilities. Cutting these programs will not only slash a successful program that has been in place for decades, but it will also adversely impact our nationally ranked middle and high school bands. Consider curbing their expenditures - i.e., perhaps a moratorium on new music.
872	Schools	As an alumni of the Fairfax county band program, hearing that band and strings would be cut in elementary schools pains me. It is a known fact that student who participate in some sort of music program get more out of school and end up with higher grades. This can't just be met by forcing kids into doing choir, which I did not do when I was in elementary school. Find different places to make cuts, or spread out the cuts.
873	Schools	Please look at the 12 month contracts that school based administrators and extra long contracts given to some teachers. It would be easy to decrease these without lack of services.
874	Schools	Do not cut the Foreign language program in the Elementary schools. They provide a gateway to the world as they develop another mean to communicate as well as a better understanding in our global world. As a teacher I know that Immersion teachers are main stream teachers, they do not cost any more than a regular teacher. In fact they tend to have way larger classes than other teachers. The records show students in the Immersion program score higher than students in the regular school program, which means that learning a second language is actually increasing the capacity of the students performance in general. Learning a second language is a benefit to our children and not a problem to the school budget. it is a benefit to our community and not an extra charge on the tax payer. Ways to cut down on budget: Once the school system has adopted a concept or an application or a program take a break and allow that the method is applied. After 15 years of experience in the county we went from " Effective teaching" to "Responsive Classroom", to Professional Learning Community" to .... From Special Ed program to Inclusion to Differentiated Instruction back to.... all these programs are great but they show education in different perspectives. It is OK if for a while we do not bring in a new perspective. I am sure that this is an effective way to save money on Curriculum development, Training Personnel and Teacher Training. Just continue with what we have at this point and do not make any changes and do not come up with new programs. I am sure that this will save a lot more money than eliminating the wonderful language programs in the schools.
875	County and Schools	I am greatly saddened by the news that Fairfax County is considering dropping the elementary school band and orchestra funds. Band was the only saving grace for my now senior. With all the struggles he had moving through some very tough high school years, band was the only thing that brought him joy and helped steer him back on course. I think it is a huge mistake to even consider cutting the band/orchestra funds. Music is an essential activity for our youth! My children are better people because of their band and orchestra experiences.

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Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
876	Schools	I oppose the budget consideration to reduce funding of music (band, orchestra and choral) programs within the FCPS system. I find the proposal to eliminate elementary school band and orchestra particularly objectionable.
877	Schools	My wife and I moved to Great Falls in 1999 specifically because the Japanese Immersion program was offered at Great Falls Elementary. Since then, we have had two of our children complete the program and continue to Japanese language classes at Cooper Middle School and Langley High School. He have two others who are still enrolled in the program at Great Falls. This program provides truly unique educational opportunities and, over the years, has served both in the United States and in Japan as a showcase for the excellence of Fairfax County public schools. Please don't eliminate foreign language programs!
878	County and Schools	I am writing in regards to the projected budget cuts for the FCPS. I am a strong believer in the full-time Kindergarten program. I am asking that you don't take this away from these children. Other counties have had full day K for years and Fairfax county is just now catching up with them. Also, it is important to keep our class sizes low to benefit the children. The county has wonderful teachers, we need to pay them well to keep them here. Local Level AA centers are also important for the children. It is not ideal to bus them away from their base school, away from friends and away from a place they love. I think the class sizes, teacher salaries full day K, and keeping Local Level AA centers open at base schools are the biggest priorities.
879	County and Schools	Support the FCPS budget-- do not force our school system to make the drastic and ill-advised cuts that have been proposed. The County Board of Supervisors should do whatever is necessary to supply the needed funding for the complete FY2011 school budget, and not force the school system to become a shell of itself and lose the great status that brings such a wealth of people and ideas to the county.
880	Don't Know	I think that they FY 2011 budget should keep Band and Strings and not get rid of them because this is an opportunity that not too many kids can have and by taking it away we are just becoming another one of those county's who don't have the opportunity to play in band and strings so PLEASE FACE- SAVE FAIRFAX BAND AND STRINGS
881	Schools	I believe that it is important to provide funding in the budget for the FCPS band and strings program. As a young child and teen, I know this program helped me to do better in school, as well as provided me with a community of students where I could express myself and have peers to relate and befriend. This program is vital to the success of our students, and it has been proven that students that play musical instruments achieve higher scores in both math and science. Please keep this vital program in the budget this year, and in the years to come.
882	County	Stop providing food and drinks for meetings of boards, advisory groups, and commissions.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
883	Schools	The Band Program in our elementary schools is an incredibly valuable resource. The opportunity it provides to children to see if they are interested in playing an instrument without requiring families to pay out hundreds of dollars for private instruction is wonderful and should be considered a valuable learning experience that is open to all. If there are budget considerations at play, how about charging for participation in high school sports programs which are exclusionary (as band is not - elementary band requires no expertise or ability) .
884	County and Schools	Please do not eliminate the Spanish immersion program. I moved to Fairfax County so my children could participate, as did many of their classmates' families. I have three children currently enrolled, in K, 3 and 5. I transport them to and from London Town, and they are enrolled in London Towne SACC. To force them out of immersion would require their changing schools in the middle of their elementary school experience and possibly impact my ability to work, as they would in all likelihood be waitlisted for the SACC program in our neighborhood school. Spanish will be the dominant language in the US in the near future. To fail to educate our children in this language would be a travesty, particularly when they have already begun this process. If the program must be eliminated, start with Japanese, French and German, which do not fall into the same critical needs category.
885	Schools	Please do not cut the band funds!!!!
886	Schools	We are new residents in Fairfax County and were delighted to find that my 1st grader would be able to participate in the Japanese Immersion Program at Great Falls Elementary School. I believe that exposing children to foreign languages at a young age is important for their development and also likely expands the flexibility of their brains to learn additional languages as they mature. Please consider keeping foreign language programs in the elementary schools.
887	Schools	Instead of taking away important programs like Band and Strings at an Elementary level, how about auditing the Free and Reduced Lunch Program? In Annandale, 2-4 families are domiciled in a single-family home, sharing mortgage and bill payments, yet they are receiving benefits from the schools. Their household income is over the \$35K threshold. That should put some money back in the schools. Find augments through possibly having nominal fees attached like the art classes do.
888	Schools	I believe that Fairfax County should not cut its elementary school music programs. I firmly stand behind the belief that these drastic cuts will not save enough money to be worth the massive repercussions of the cuts. The elementary school music programs not only enrich the lives of grade schoolers, but also add to the excellence of our middle and high music programs, as well as marching band. To cut the elementary programs would be hurt all FCPS music programs, even if those repercussions were accidentally and completely unintended.



## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
889	Schools	I am very concerned about the lack of equity in our school system. When eliminating programs, please consider if the impacted schools have any other special programs. Please do not line-item deleted programs - it will leave some schools with nothing and some with numerous funded programs. For example, many Immersion schools have Full-Day K, lots of ESOL spend, or are Focus or Magnet schools. My school, Great Falls Elem, has none of these other programs. As a result, the education spend per student at my school is already unfairly low compared to other schools. We will be left with only the Core Elementary Instruction and our kids will not be challenged. We want the best for ALL students - including those of both higher and lower income. Also, I support a county-wide decal fee t (\$25-35) to increase revenue and hopefully provided more money to the school system. If everyone pays this fee it seems more fair. than raising taxes on a few.
890	County	All efforts need to be made to ensure that FCPS receives an increase in funding to at least match the increase in new students over the last few years. As the parent of a child who will be in kindergarten next year, I am concerned that my child will not be receiving an education on par with that of this year's graduating seniors. I am seriously considering moving out of the county and going to Montgomery County which has MANDATED full-day kindergarten and has a per-pupil expenditure \$2,000 higher than FCPS. I am sure that county Government does not want a further erosion of real estate values. Do what's right and raise the tax rate if necessary!!!
891	Schools	I am a second year teacher and it was because of my SBTS that I had such a successful first year. She has helped me incorporate technology in my classroom in all areas. She is a wonderful and needed addition to our staff, I can't imagine what it would mean to lose her position.
892	Schools	Please do not cut elementary school music program, band and string
893	Schools	It has come to my attention that the county is considering cutting all Elementary School level Band and Orchestra programs. I, myself, began my love of music in fourth grade when I was given the opportunity to join my school's Orchestra program. Like my Brother before me I chose to play the Cello. Unfortunately, the Cello was most definitely not my calling. But i continued to love music and so in fifth grade when I was given the opportunity to join band, I chose to play the clarinet. I fell in love! I have been playing clarinet for 6 years now and I am second chair in the top band at my high school. I have even branched out to play Tenor Saxophone in Jazz band, cymbals in indoor drum-line, and E flat clarinet in addition to my traditional B flat. I assure you, that disposing of any music program will be a huge mistake! While it may save some money now, the long-term damage it will cause to many schools and many children's lives will be horrific. Did you know, that it has been scientifically proven that students who participate in music receive higher scores on their SAT's? I beg you to reconsider your decision and to explore alternative solutions to the current budget crisis. I understand that you have been given a difficult task and I know that any decision will be a difficult one, but cutting any sort of educational program should be unheard of! Thank you for your time.
894	Schools	Please do not eliminate full day kindergarten. It provides significant academic benefit -- there is even a video on the FCPS website touting the benefits of full day K. Also, for parents that work, eliminating full day K has a direct economic impact.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
895	Schools	Please do not eliminate the band/music programs in the elementary schools. Music enriches a student's academic achievement and leads to life-long appreciation of the arts. Young children have the ability to learn easily and readily. Introducing them to music when they are young captures their creativity and gives them a constructive outlet for that creativity. Participating in music enhances all aspects of a child's life and boosts self confidence. Imagine your world without music!
896	County	Please don't cut the budget, we need those band and orchestra programs in our elementary schools for the children.
897	Schools	SBTS are needed at EVERY school especially with the strong emphasis of teaching with technology! Full day kindergarten is extremely beneficial and needs to remain in the schools. Band and strings are wonderful opportunities for students and need to remain in the schools.
898	County and Schools	Please do NOT remove elementary Orchestra and Band from the schools. I have 4 boys, 2 of which have taken elem. orchestra and are continuing in HS. They both are Honor Students. Now their younger brothers (3rd and 4th grd) are eager to start. My 4th grader is now learning the violin. These programs definitely improve children's academic standings. You will be doing a disservice removing these programs. I urge you to try another route in reducing our deficit.
899	County and Schools	Please do not eliminate the Language Immersion programs at our schools. This is a valuable program for our children and benefits them immensely by improving their capabilities with learning new languages and appreciating other cultures. Now is the time to introduce them to other languages when they are receptive to learning, and it allows them to build listening and analytical capabilities which will later contribute to their ability to be competitive with other college applicants. Please allow parents the choice of subsidizing the program to keep it going.
900	County and Schools	Please look at redistricting the schools. There are students that live in Fairfax Station that are bussed into Woodson High School. There are a few schools that are closer to Fairfax Station than Woodson. It would seem reasonable and logical to stop bussing these kids to a school so far away and it would save a great deal of money. Also, there are a few states that offer IEP's for their gifted population. I have a son who is in a GT Center and would be open to keeping him at his base school if an IEP were provided, so that his needs were met. I moved to Fairfax seven years ago because of the reputation of its public schools. I know cuts must be made, but please remember that these schools are a big reason why people move and stay in this county. If you don't keep to the high standards you have already set, people will start to look elsewhere for better schools. I know I will.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
901	Schools	Please keep elementary school strings and band alive! Think back to your own elementary school days - what do you remember best? If you played an instrument, I'll bet you remember that better than most of your academic courses. You remember your pride at your concerts - what a thrill it was to play for an audience (a great self-esteem booster)! You remember understanding that if a whole note is "whole" because it gets 4 beats, that a quarter note only gets 1/4 of that - and that's why a quarter (be it in sound or sight) is what it is (a skill builder)! You remember coming to school upset, but feeling better after rehearsal time. WHY LIVE if we don't give our students special things to live FOR? How can FCPS even consider axing elementary strings and band when those programs are so important to so many?! Cutting these programs will make the Arts wither away for all students in very little time.
902		Some suggestion for cost cutting 1) Remove immersion foreign language programs and replace with Rosetta Stone program for ALL kids. 2) Merge Advanced placement and general ed students in schools where there are limited differences between these two populations (colvin run elementary and probably others as well)
903	Schools	Please do not cut the funding for elementary school band & string programs. These offerings are part of what set Fairfax County schools apart & are an exceptional part of my daughter's education.
904	Schools	I believe it would be a huge mistake to cut the elementary school band and orchestra programs. These programs are essential in order to have a middle and high school band and orchestra program. These programs give our young people a healthy outlet for their energy and a positive setting in which to interact with peers. I would cut administration positions first, such as curriculum specialists.
905	County	Band was an essential part of my education, and much to the shortsightedness of my city's taxpayers, it was cut from my education. In addition to its artistic value, band teaches children math, team work, leadership, listening skills, culture, and problem solving. I would like Fairfax County to fund this essential element of education.
906	Schools	Do Not Cut the Elementary Band Program. It is my feeling that there are few programs that are of more benefit to the students of Fairfax County than band. I am a product of the Fairfax County Band program and my children have benefited as well. Cutting elementary band will, down the road, result in the death of all band in Fairfax County. If you must cut 4th grade strings, OK, but not band.
907	Schools	Please DO NOT cut elementary Band and Strings! Fairfax County has a strong, well-balanced curriculum that educates the whole child. Having the opportunity to take an instrument in elementary school is an important part of our curriculum. The majority of students choose to take an instrument in elementary school, and many of them will not be able to take it in middle school or high school. It is a program that benefits most children and develops the minds of students from all backgrounds and learning styles! Keep our fine arts program strong!!!

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
908	Schools	The current list of potential program reductions for FCPS is too heavily focused on instruction. Administrative and central office initiatives <b>MUST</b> be examined more closely for further opportunities to gain efficiencies. Transportation, for example, should be reviewed annually to ensure the most effective use of those resources. New initiatives, such as the elementary progress report field test, should be tabled until we are not facing a funding crisis of historic magnitude.
909	Schools	While I realize that the county must make cuts to balance the budget, I am dismayed to see that the Foreign Language immersion programs have been targeted for elimination. These programs are a part of why Fairfax County Public Schools are considered to be a leading school system not just in the state but also in the country. My daughter has been in the Japanese Immersion Program at Great Falls Elementary for the past 3 years and has benefited significantly from it; in fact, while she is also in the AT program and performs well academically, the JIP program is truly why she loves school. While it would be a great personal loss for us to see these programs eliminated, it would be a greater loss to the entire school system. These are not programs that can be re-started easily. It has taken years to get the teaching staff and materials in place. To cut a program that is clearly working for our students and that has led to national recognition for our schools seems truly foolish to me. I hope the county will re-consider this budget decision.
910	Schools	Regarding talks about whether to keep elementary instrumental programs, I'm reminded of founding father, Thomas Jefferson's, words about music, "Music...the favorite passion of my soul". If a great statesman, president of our land, inventor, AND musician found music to be an integral part of his existence, how is it that music should be taken from young people in our state, Jefferson's home state? Obviously, Jefferson thought that to be well educated, one should play a musical instrument.
911	County and Schools	The projected cuts for the school system and libraries are absolutely disastrous. We <b>MUST</b> generate more revenue. We can raise the real estate tax rate in these times of lowered assessments. I also think the county should: 1. Double the number of red light cameras; 2. Reinstate the \$25 Fairfax County car decals; 3. Charge more for park facility rental and athletic field usage. I hope you will add more community dialogue meetings to the docket as well. Many citizens have not yet had the opportunity to express their ideas and concerns.
912	Schools	I'm dismayed to learn that the elementary strings and band programs are threatened by budget cuts. These are really popular programs, and they contribute to the diverse and well-rounded education offered in our schools. Please consider music instruction as the valuable, "core" educational component that it is.
913	County and Schools	Do not cut out of the arts. My elementary and high school arts classes are what got me into the arts. They are a fundamental stepping block for creativity in all aspects of life. The arts are just as important as sports.
914	Schools	Elementary Band in 6th grade helped to shape the path of my life. Teamwork, friends, enrichment - all helped me to get to where I am today. Please don't cut music in school. Maybe raise lunch prices or cut it all together and just provide fridges. Or outsource cafeterias to independent business owners. Raise taxes.... good luck Fairfax County

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
915	Schools	In reviewing the projected cuts for the 2011 school budget, it appears that almost every area is being affected. I did not, however, notice any cuts to ESOL programs. What is the measured effectiveness of ESOL programs in our schools? As a teacher, I frankly don't see the usefulness of ESOL. When I was a child, I attended a school completely taught in French without any specialized support. I was immersed, and very quickly learned to function fluently in another language. Children's brains are wired for language acquisition. Isn't that the point behind the language immersion and EFL programs? I believe that, given what is expected of teachers in today's fcps schools, the only way to "close gaps" is to have two qualified teachers in every single classroom. Rather than pinching pennies here and there to meet budget, we should be focusing on how to dramatically shift our paradigm to create a scenario that genuinely supports effective teaching and learning.
916	Schools	As a standard for as long as I remember, the Fairfax County Schools have been counted in the top 5 school districts in the nation. Some of the areas that are listed on the 2011 budget for discussion are going to impact the ability for the teachers to do the best job they can and maintain our status of our children's education. The priority, aside from going to the State and Fed. Govt. for more funding is to keep teacher student to a manageable size. Even if it means losing days of education, the loss will be minimal in retrospect to the entire year of overcrowded classes. Now that a new governor has been elected, the BOS needs to appeal for options. Don't cut Immersion schools, the cost of teaching math and science in Spanish is equivalent to teaching those same subjects in English. There are so many broad areas listed on the developing budget report that question reasonability. Please make this a realistic process so that we are not fighting without purpose. I firmly believe that the work that needs to be done is with negotiations between state legislators first!
917	Schools	Please keep the FCPS band and strings program. Music is such an integral and important part of our children's education. Wouldn't you rather see a child reach for their instrument instead of their computer? The opportunity to create and play music together is an important way to keep our children emotionally healthy and balanced. It also keeps them off the streets. Please do not eliminate this important and superb program! The benefits and rewards of this program are thousand fold! Thank you!
918	Schools	Please retain the elementary band and orchestra programs. Thank you.
919	Schools	Please do not reduce the budget for Fairfax County Public Schools MUSIC programs including the Elementary, Middle and High School Band, Orchestra and Choral programs. These programs are an integral part of our students development and learning!
920	County and Schools	Three of my four children and I have been involved with the band program in Fairfax County Public Schools. I am shocked that the county is considering cutting the band & orchestra programs in elementary schools. I think this will have a negative impact on our children as well as hurt the band & orchestra programs in the middle and high schools. I hope the county will make the right decision and not take away this vital program from our children.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
921		In regard to FLES. After participating in this program for over 8 years and planning on continuing another 6 until our youngest finishes 6th grade, I know that it is a unique offering that has made me grateful that we live in Fairfax County. This attracts me to this area and keeps us from considering a move. It's hard to believe that the county wouldn't do everything possible to guard this jewel of a program, we would horribly disappointed in the decision-making if this were the case.
922	Schools	Keep music programs in Fairfax County Public Schools!!!
923	Schools	Programs such as Foreign Language in Elementary Schools are what makes this county special and one of the reasons I moved my children to GBW in Third Grade. If cut now, it would be very difficult to recover these programs and impossible for the current students to regain lost ground. Suggestion: Turn the heating in schools down a degree or two. Over all the schools and public buildings this should result in a considerable saving.
924	Schools	PLEASE spare the band/orchestra program in the elementary schools...it has provided immeasurable confidence and pride in my two children. I think this program is EXTREMELY important and is worth fighting for. This program exposes the children to music at an early age and is something they can build upon their entire life. And with competing against time for sports many of the children would not likely take music up on their own and yet it is so important in their overall development. DO NOT ALLOW THIS PROGRAM TO BE CUT. Thank you for your kind consideration,
925	Schools	Our elementary school classrooms are already bursting at the seams. I go to help at my son's 5th grade class at Spring Hill, and there is barely room to walk around the desks. The are jammed in like sardines. We simply cannot support an increase to our elementary school classroom sizes. The elementary school strings program is a valuable one for our children and one that illustrates the improvement in our education system from generation to generation. It would be a tragedy to lose such a program that enriches our children. Strings challenges our children to assemble what they have learned in reading, math and history. My 1st grade daughter is emerging slower than her peers as a reader, but she excels at reading and playing music. I would hate to see this program eliminated as an option for her.
926	Schools	Please don't cut elementary Band and Strings! I participated in both programs as a child and they're immensely important in instilling a lifelong love and understanding of instrumental music. Thank you.
927	Schools	I am totally against the elimination of the Fairfax County Elementary Band And String program in the FY2011 Budget. Without the elementary programs, I do not know how the students would be prepared for the middle and ultimately the high school level band and orchestra programs. These programs are a very important part of many students' school careers in so many ways. I can't believe that Fairfax, one of the wealthiest and most educated counties in the nation, would even consider eliminating these programs.

***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments  
Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
928	Schools	Preservation of the foreign language programs is crucial for maintaining the excellent school system in Fairfax County. It has been scientifically proven that study of a second language is beneficial to children's educational development. Clearly, the foreign language program is improving the education and testing scores of the county's children. Many families, ours included, choose to stay in Fairfax, despite the cost of housing, specifically for the benefits provided by this excellent school system. Please retain funding for the foreign language program. It is a clear benefit for the present, and an investment in the county's, and our children's future.
929	County and Schools	The county needs to raise property taxes to support the school system. It is not acceptable that Fairfax County Public Schools is considering cutting Full Day Kindergarten, Technology, and Technology Support at our schools. I don't understand why it was ok to cut the property taxes 5 years ago to half the rate when my home was valued at \$440,000 but you are unwilling to return the tax rate to what it was when my home was originally \$280,000 like it is today. I moved to Fairfax because of their high level of services and schools. Cutting money from our schools is not acceptable. I am not happy with the way this county is heading. Dr. Dale needs to be removed and the county needs to raise taxes to support our schools.
930	Schools	Please do not eliminate the band and strings programs in the elementary schools. These programs have benefited thousands of students for more than 30 years. It would crumble our high level music ensembles in only 2 years. Fairfax County Public Schools has always had one of the best school music programs in the nation. As a parent, it would be extremely disappointing to not have my child start an instrument until 7th grade. This is much too late to receive all of the benefits that come with learning an instrument. Not only do students learn to read music, they also learn to be responsible and organized. Many schools are scheduling band and strings classes as a block, so that classroom teachers can have common planning time. This allows our classroom teachers time to carefully plan lessons that will better suit our children and improve their learning and test scores. The only negative to band and strings is from principals who refuse to utilize the block schedule. If FCPS requires that all elementary schools go to block scheduling then no child would miss classroom instruction to participate in instrumental music. Please understand that the positives outweigh the negatives for elementary level band and strings. Do not cut elementary band and strings.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
931	County and Schools	Before the real state boom Fairfax County Schools was already a recognized entity in education and that is why professionals from all over the country recognized Fairfax as a number one choice for living in particular those with children. Question: How did Fairfax became so recognized before the real estate boom, when property values were at normal levels. What was the additional spending that was done that has gotten us into a budget deficit?? That it seems we can not manage it properly. I believe that there are "needs" and "likes" and we need to make a distinction between these two. What are the "needs" for the County Schools face today to stay as a "Leading Education Entity"? And what are the "likes" that we can reduce and maybe cut that will not affect the education quality for our children in Fairfax. I would like to see ways of reducing the deficit, but not in ways that will affect the education quality and reduce the attractiveness of this wonderful county.
932	Schools	It's been shown that around 70% of all students participate in the Band and Strings program in Elementary schools. We need to keep this program. It's a vital part of a students education. Students who participate in Music are better students academically. I feel that parents who want their child involved in the immersion program should be required to pay extra for that program. Our first responsibility as a county is to teach children in English and that's where tax payers dollars should go. Also, as much as it's 'nice' to have children in kindergarten for a full day, 1/2 day would work as well. If funding needs to be cut it should be in the area of the immersion programs and full day kindergarten.
933	Schools	We must not only keep the transfer rate the same, but also increase the transfer rate to cover at least the \$176M deficit, and more. I understand you must have a balanced budget. Therefore, myself, and many of our friends and neighbors agree -- we will support tax increases (whether in the form of a property tax increase, or bond or otherwise), provided that money goes directly to the Fairfax County Public Schools.
934	Schools	Most people in my neighborhood will support tax increases (whether in the form of a property tax increase, or bond or otherwise), provided that money goes directly to the Fairfax County Public Schools. We must not only keep the transfer rate the same, but also increase the transfer rate to cover at least the \$176M deficit, and more. I understand you must have a balanced budget, so we understand you might need to raise taxes. That's OK -- I want to do my part via paying increased taxes and being active in my community. I am writing this letter to tell you to please do your part and find the funding to increase the transfer to FCPS this coming year.
935	County and Schools	Most people in my neighborhood will support tax increases (whether in the form of a property tax increase, or bond or otherwise), provided that money goes directly to the Fairfax County Public Schools. We must not only keep the transfer rate the same, but also increase the transfer rate to cover at least the \$176M deficit, and more. The quality of our schools is at stake - and therefore, so are our property values.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
936	Schools	As a parent who has chosen to send my children to the Spanish Immersion program, I am happy to be responsible for their transportation to/from school (the program is out of bounds for us). I think that is a very fair arrangement in order to take advantage of a unique enrichment opportunity. As such, please review student busing for those who similarly choose to attend special programs out of bounds (GT and magnet schools specifically). Currently, these students are guaranteed free busing to their school of choice. I would argue that the cost of busing these students should be used offset part of the expense of the Foreign Language Immersion Programs, which have as much long-term benefit to its students as do the GT and magnet programs. Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment.
937	County and Schools	Raise taxes specifically to fund the FY2011 School Budget. Fairfax County is such a desirable location for individuals and business because in large part, of our excellent school system. Without proper funding, the schools are forced to cut valuable programs and the quality of the school system will significantly decrease. The loss of our quality school system is not only detrimental to our children, but will negatively impact the Fairfax County economy. Please fund the School Budget to prevent cutting educational programs so Fairfax County can continue to have one of the best public school systems in the nation. Playing catch-up is not in anyone's best interest. Thank you for your consideration.
938	Schools	Eliminate GT centers, Eliminate Fine Arts/Science Schools, Fees for IB/AP courses, look into illegal immigrant situation effecting FCPS.
939	Schools	I am appalled and saddened and outraged to learn that the county is considering eliminating the school system's strings and band programs at the elementary school level. The County MUST continue these programs. They are vital to our community and to our children's growth. I will do whatever I can to help insure that these programs continue.
940	County and Schools	Pooling of resources, allow all agencies to acquire materials or equipment from any county agency that has what is needed. instead of surplusng or selling unneeded items they should be posted online and departments must use this avenue first before going out to acquire the items needed.
941	County	Last year cuts were made at the lower and mid levels. Perhaps this year, you should start at the top. Is it really necessary to have FOUR deputy county executives and all those agency directors?
942	Schools	I have 2 children at Timber lane. The modify calendar is critical to the needs of many students. It prepares them for so much. It lowers the need for summer school and many other intervention programs. Please keep the funding for the modified calendar.
943	Schools	Immersion program is critical to setting FCPS apart from all other schools. The next generation will benefit greatly from this program. The investment has been significant, to cut it now and re-implement it again later will be costly in many ways. Please keep the immersion program and thank you for your consideration.
944	Schools	It is important to keep the Band and Strings programs in Elementary Schools. It is show that this increases math and english scores. It is a need program. Please keep these vital programs.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
945	Schools	The modify calendar is critical to my students success. Please try and continue this option.
946	Schools	If you begin to cut strings and band at the elementary level I feel you will have quite schools at every level. If you begin to cut these programs you will loose the students in disadvantage homes and it will hurt the school as a whole. I hope the cuts are done across the board instead of just to one program that way the burden is shared by all.
<b>Added November 9, 2009</b>		
947	County and Schools	Please do not eliminate the elementary band and strings programs from our Fairfax County Public Schools. We should not have our students pay the price for our financial shortcomings. It has been proven that students who study a musical instrument improve on their learning abilities and test scores. They build friendships, confidence, creative thinking and innovative skills that will help them with their futures in life. Some examples or what we could do in order to save the music education of our young students is first furlough days on our contracts across the board for all teachers. We could also increase our class size by one student which I know could save us around \$19 million alone. We could reinstate the car sticker tax or housing taxes could rise. Finally the state could help us by holding off on new construction projects like the Dulles Metro which is at least a \$100 million dollar project and use the money were we need it most. There are still several different avenues that we must use in order to save our children's education. We should not and can not take away music education for our children. Please do not take away the elementary band and strings programs in Fairfax County. The music programs are one of the top reasons we are recognized nation wide. Thank you for your time and consideration.
948	Schools	DO NOT cut elementary school music programs. These programs have been proven to be beneficial for students' overall education. Music is an important part of the educational experience and elementary students should have the opportunity to participate in band and strings.
949	Schools	Teacher cost of living and step increases are essential. FCPS is not prudently spending their resources. If we are in a budget crisis, then why do we continue to spend money on technology enhancements? Why is Jack Dale paid half a million dollars?
950	Schools	Please do not cut the elementary arts programs - especially the band programs! Those programs are crucial for the development of the whole child which leads to improved learning in core academics.
951	Schools	Reduce transportation costs by reducing fragmentation of the transportation network caused by students not attending their base school. If parents elect to have their children attend a school other than their base school, they should bear the costs of that election.
952	Schools	What is the percentage of students that live within the state-mandated walking limits that actually have bus transportation? What percentage is this of the total number of students transported? Transport dollars should be saved so that instructional dollars are impacted less.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
953	Schools	Full Day Kindergarten has been shown to have lasting benefits, particularly in certain population segments. Limiting Full Day kindergarten to (current) Title 1 schools, ignores the fact that some non-Title 1 schools may soon become Title 1 schools, and have "at-risk" populations. If Full Day Kindergarten must be reduced, use a needs-based assessment to reduce instead of a simplistic cut. Suggest that several scenarios be prepared. Title-1 only (the current strawman), Title 1 + At Risk schools (current AYP result would be insufficient in, say, 2 years), Current FDK. This would work to meet the needs of an "at-risk" population and preserve FCPS reputation.
954	Schools	The elementary school language immersion programs are apparently being considered for cuts. These immersion programs are a unique feature of the Fairfax County school system which help set our school system apart from the rest of the country. I urge you not to cut this program from our schools. It is critical that we help our next generation excel in this world economy and speaking a second language goes a long way toward accomplishing this goal. No doubt, the investment Fairfax County has made in establishing this elementary school language immersion program was significant. Now that the program is running smoothly and consists of a very small portion of the annual school budget, it would be a mistake to dismantle the program and loose the investment the county has made in the program. The costs to reinstitute this program in the future would be prohibitive. Thank-you for your consideration in this matter.
955	County	Work with General Assembly to diversify tax base. e.g. Meals Tax, Hotel Tax, Car Rental Tax, disposables (plastic bottles, etc) tax, fast food tax. Assign taxes to particular goals. e.g. Ensure fast food tax funds a health-related goal.
956	Schools	PLEASE OPEN THE MEETING AT SHERWOOD HALL LIBRARY
957	Schools	All training seminars and conferences should be cut. Outside speakers should be eliminated as well. Transportation to GT centers including TJ should be eliminated.
958	County	The county should consider instituting a 37.5 hour work week. Yes, it would be a small salary reduction for employees, but it would also improve the quality of life of Fairfax County employees and save so many jobs.
959	County	PLEASE stop targeting the libraries for budget cuts. Customer usage is way up as people in the community cancel their internet services, cut back on entertainment, and look for jobs! Without the libraries, and the library staff running strong, the community will suffer.
960	Schools	The extras such as art, band, strings, and p.e. help the children to become better developed people. If need to cut spending, how about cutting back on the standardized testing.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
961	Schools	Budget shortfalls are a fact of life. Please look closely at the way cuts are "spread" to ensure that "easy targets" like technology assistance and others do not take an inappropriate share of the burden. For example, even a moderate decrease in technology support will likely result in a negative tipping point in available classroom technology advances. Workstations, smart-boards, web-access naturally decay, with some schools and children more at risk than others. The un-intended consequence will be that high-tech features like computers and smart boards will not be available. Among other things, this may drive up paper, other supplies, and overtime costs as schools move back to more resource intensive operations. This may also disproportionately hurt children getting ready to transition into Middle or High School. A "peanut butter" spread of the cost sharing is probably not the right answer. I would request that FCPS look at a reasonable and measurable set of criteria for making any staffing or support adjustments. We owe it to our teachers, staff and students to ensure offsets are taken in a thoughtful manner, this means that schools needs to be last on the list for cuts. Items that might be considered are number of computers per student, number per school, age of computers, existing trouble calls or technology assistance workload in hours, average paper use per student and per teacher, number of smart-boards in the school, number of classrooms using internet or computer as primary teaching delivery tool... etc....
962	Schools	Please do not cut music (i.e, strings and band) from the elementary school budget. Children that learn music from an early age benefit greatly from it, and I know that the children in my daughter's elementary school would miss it greatly if it was taken away. Arts education in general, and music in particular, is vital to the education of our youth in Fairfax County.
963	Schools	The U. S. Department of Education and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan are advocating for increased time in the classroom, because of the positive effect it has on student achievement. Modified Calendar Schools provide that. I urge you to continue their funding. Consequences of eliminating funding for the Modified Calendar Schools include: * Reduced time in the classroom * Elimination of content specific remediation classes * Elimination of content specific enrichment classes This will produce a decline in both educational opportunity and achievement. The student demographic of those served by Modified Calendar Schools is typically an "at risk population". The academic deficits and needs of these students are considerably greater than what we in Fairfax County consider to be the norm. Modified Calendar Schools have produced an enviable record of achievement and their test scores validate this. Their achievement is directly related to intersession classes (increased time in the classroom) and the additional opportunities for instruction that are provided to Fairfax Counties most needy students. Please continue funding the Modified Calendar Schools. The FCPS budget deficit should not be used as an excuse to cut programs that provide opportunities for the neediest of students.
964	Schools	ADD MORE SESSIONS
965	Don't Know	This is not fair. You should not cut the elementary band and strings.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
966	Schools	Do not cut any more in FCPS! The school system is known for good product schools and cutting all day kindergarten and technology will not help make productive, successful students. APs may need to be cut as well as charging money for high school sports programs. Teachers may need to lose a day the first week of school. Taxes may need to be raised. Why not close schools on the half day before Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks? Something has to be done because children need their teachers and aides and class sizes need to stay where they are. Classes are already too big. Children are not getting the attention and help that they need to be productive.
967	Schools	To the Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: As a parent of a child attending Olde Creek Elementary School, I am deeply concerned about the FY2011 budget forecast and want you to hear first-hand from me. Specifically, I strongly encourage you to: * Maintain the full-day Kindergarten program! Changing to ½ day will have a serious and negative impact on our students and teachers. * Do NOT increase class size! Our school has seen tremendous growth in class size just in the last year. Increasing class size, even by 1 student, will have major implications. *Do NOT reduce our number of school-based technology specialists! As one of the leading elementary schools with the latest and greatest state-of-the-art technology - and that uses it on a regular basis school-wide - loss of our technology specialists will be unacceptable! *Do NOT reduce our number of Assistant Principals! We cannot afford to lose ANY Assistant Principals county-wide, particularly at OCES, as they play a major role in many aspects of running the school. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these requests.
968	Schools	Over the past 20 years, county has established a program that has proven successful at the individual student, community and international level, to discontinue the program now is short-sighted. Costs to re-instate the program could be substantial. Today, the asset of being bilingual is valued by all types of employers. Tomorrow it will be a requirement. The only way students from English only families can get the exposure they require is at school. You can not cut such a vital program.
969	Schools	I would not recommend cutting full-day Kindergarten. Early education is critical - let's not take a step backwards to half-day kindergarten.
970	Schools	Please keep the elementary school band program! My daughter is an 8th grader, and she started playing a band instrument in 5th grade. She decided to try band because it was a once a week program that let her try playing without a significant investment in either time or money. To our surprise, she turned out to be quite talented. Had this program been offered only in middle school, she probably would not have selected it, because she would have been required to play every day, and she wouldn't have known if she wanted to put that much time and effort into it at that point. Music has been shown to increase cognitive abilities, so please continue to keep it in the budget for future years. This will not affect my daughter, but I would like for all kids to have the same chance that we did. Thank you!

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
971	Schools	Elementary band and strings program involves more than 70% of the students in FCPS in grades 4-6. Over 24,000 students. That is a huge number of students to take this away from. Moreover, that decision would have a disastrous impact on the potential music education experience of grades 7-12. This county is known for having some of the best music programs in the county. Why would you ever consider taking away something that we have proven we are so good at and that so many students love? That cannot be said about other programs on the budget to be cut.
972	County	I am writing to strongly encourage the Board to leave the elementary school band and strings program in place. This is where our children are first introduced to many forms of instruments and the very basics of reading music...from there they go on to the middle school level and participate in a band. That for some leads them to HS Band. If you cut out music at the beginning level you will squash the "try it" phase of music and the program will suffer on all levels. Please leave band and strings in the elementary schools. Thank you. 3 sons in FFC school, 9th, 6th, 4th
973	County	The FLESS program that has introduced Spanish into the classroom at Clearview Elementary School is working. My 4th grade son has been participating in it from year one. His Spanish is coming along so nicely - I am amazed at how much dialogue he understands from the TV and in social situations. He's 9th grade brother is taking Spanish 1 this year at HHS and he has actually been able to help him with some of his homework. At 9 years old he is much more fluent than I am after 4 years of HS Spanish only. If you take the program out of the school now we'll never know how well it worked because those students will lose what they've learned before they have a chance to apply their knowledge on a HS level. I am sure that you will see a rise in Middle School languages being chosen as an elective from this class one they reach 7th grade IF you allow the program to remain in place. On another note having this program at Clearview Elementary as allowed some of the ESL children to become leaders and role models in a language arts program. How wonderful for their self-esteem and what a great incentive for all kids. Please leave the FLESS program in place through-out the county but in particular please leave in it place at Clearview Elementary. Thank you.
974	Schools	I am very concerned that elementary band and orchestra programs may be cut to save a very small amount. I truly believe the long-term damage that would do to this county would be irreparable. Academics, athletics and arts are all part of what makes one educated. Cutting these programs would be as absurd as cutting out math, or P.E. It would significantly damage the high schools' programs as well. In turn removing an important aspect of education will then also negatively affect Fairfax County students applying to colleges. Please keep these important programs in place.
975	Schools	I think eliminating all day Kindergarten is a GREAT idea. We are pushing our kids to school too fast, when they are not ready. 1/2 day is good for the Kindergarten age. Also, if Kindergarten is less demanding, it may cut down on redshirting. Please don't cut band and strings!
976	County and Schools	Are we getting our fair share from Richmond?? Are children are entitled to first class education. We should exhaust all options before taking more money which means more program eliminations from our schools. I am thinking of moving counties!!!!

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
977	Schools	To the Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: As a parent of a child / children's attending Olde Creek Elementary School, I am deeply concerned about the FY2011 budget forecast , and strongly encourage you to : Maintain the full-day Kindergarten program! Changing to 1/2 day will have a serious and negative impact on students and teaches. Do Not increase class size! Our school has seen tremendous growth in class size just in the last year. Increasing class size, even by 1 student, will have major implications. Do Not reduce our number of school-based technology specialists! As one of the leading elementary schools with the latest and greatest state-of-art technology - and that uses it on a regular basis school -wide loss of our technology specialists will be unacceptable! Do Not reduce our number of Assistant Principals! We cannot afford to lose ANY Assistant Principals county-wide, particularly at OCES, as they play a major role in many aspects of running the school. Thank you.
978	Schools	I am very concerned about the potential elimination of the immersion programs and the strings and band programs. My 3 children are enrolled in the Spanish immersion program at London Towne Elementary, and they are learning and doing amazing things! I feel so strongly about the benefits of this immersion program that I chose NOT to send two of my children to a Level IV GT center. Also, my daughter is now in her 2nd year of strings, and she is thoroughly enjoying it. I still play the violin today, which I began in fifth grade. I want the same opportunity for my children. DO NOT CUT THESE GREAT PROGRAMS!!
979	County	The Economic Development Authority (EDA) gives its employees bonuses each year (including this year). In a time of tight budgets, it would appear that the county could save money by reducing its funding to EDA by at least the amount of the bonuses paid out.
980	Schools	As a school employee who sees the programs firsthand, I think that the gifted centers could be eliminated. The GT students could be served well in their base schools with enrichment activities. I also think this would actually be better for these students in terms of their social/emotional functioning. I also think that the FLES programs are not necessities at this time and the students would be just as well served without this service.
981	Schools	It would be a terrible idea to eliminate band and strings in elementary schools. There are so many studies indicating the valuable link between music and math and brain development, and denying access to these music classes is such a disservice to our youth. Not everyone can afford private music lessons, and elementary school classes offer a much more accessible option. Also, I would like to hear why the proposed increase in Advanced Academic classes is more than the proposed increase in General Education classes. On what planet is that fair or reasonable? It's time to take a closer look at the public school administration when looking at budget cuts. Why do all of the proposed cuts directly affect the children, but do not impact the administration at all? Cluster Supervisors, multiple Vice Principals - any corporation that top-heavy would not survive. Cuts need to happen within the administration before cuts are made to child services.

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Through November 17, 2009***

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
982	Schools	As a Fairfax county resident and taxpayer, I want to state my strong support for the elementary music and band programs. The proposed budgets cuts in this area will have a big negative impact on the lives of hundreds of students that participate in these programs. Public school music programs are essential to providing all children, not just those from families that can afford private education, with music instruction. Music instruction at a young age greatly improves a child's memory and thinking skills and has a positive lifelong impact. I strongly urge the county to not eliminate the elementary school music programs in Fairfax County.
983	Schools	To the Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: As a parent of four children attending Fairfax County Public Schools, I am deeply concerned about the FY2011 budget forecast and want you to hear first-hand from me. Specifically, I strongly encourage you to: *Maintain the special-ed program for high schoolers. These wonderful students NEED this program to help them transition to a productive life. Taking this away would be going back to the dark ages when communities hid the mentally and emotionally challenged from society. *Do NOT reduce our number of school-based technology specialists! As one of the leading elementary schools with the latest and greatest state-of-the-art technology - and that uses it on a regular basis school-wide - loss of our technology specialists will be unacceptable! Thank you in advance for your consideration of these requests. If at any time you would like to talk to me directly, please feel free to email or call me (insert phone number).
984	Schools	Support the schools by getting SB to make common sense cuts and give them more money.
985	County and Schools	DO NOT eliminate full day K. A very short-sighted, short-term "solution" which will have dramatic long-term effects for at-risk kids (not all of whom attend Title I schools.) This would also likely cost more money in the long run, as at risk kids become further behind their peers who instead went to private full day K. Also, last year there was a short-lived county proposal to privatize SACC. Parents (and students) deserve reliable, safe, and nurturing care in a learning environment. Only the county-run SACC program can provide that service. As a parent who survived 8 years of private daycare hell, I would be happy to testify in support of SACC and I will certainly lead my community in support of this program if it ever becomes necessary. Thank you.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
986	Schools	As the schools budget is assembled for FY 2011 and the county looks for ways to cover the anticipated shortfall, I would like to ask that the "modified calendar" (a.k.a. year-round school) is not removed. Our daughter has the privilege to attend Franconia Elementary, which an excellent school that uses the modified calendar. While the expense for offering this program is relatively small, we believe that the benefits are huge. Our daughter loves the schedule, and after a short summer break, she really seems to retain most of what she learned the year before. This is also a great blessing to us as parents, but I can imagine that for those on the lower income scales, this is truly great. The fact that the school offers Fall, Winter, and Spring "Inter-Session" educational programs means that all of the students of Franconia are getting more education than students on the traditional calendar. The modified calendar is exactly what President Obama and the Dept of Education have been advocating. If anything, Fairfax County should seek to expand the program once revenues rebound. Indeed, as a middle-income parent, I would be happy to support increased fees for the optional intersession programs, provided that the fees were means-tested and not a hindrance to low income families. Thank you.
987	Schools	I can't even imagine that the Board of Supervisors would consider eliminating the music (band/orchestra) programs from the Fairfax County elementary schools. These programs are extremely popular and a point of pride for many students and parents alike. These music programs give students the opportunity to excel at something other than academics or sports. For many students, band and orchestra are the catalyst in later years for staying in school or staying out of trouble. Numerous studies have outlined the benefits of learning an instrument at a young age, especially as it relates to academics specifically math and science. The benefits FAR outweigh the \$7 million that the county would save if they eliminated these programs. These programs impact a LARGE number of students across the county. The programs are highly rated and well regarded throughout the state/region as is evidenced by the numerous awards and accolades that the bands and orchestras have won over the years. Children need to be introduced to these programs early. They require dedication and practice. With many private lessons starting at \$50/half-hour, most students would be unable to play an instrument outside of school. In short order, the high school programs would become nonexistent. Fairfax County has long been admired for its excellent and innovative schools. If we keep chipping away at the programs that make it great, we won't be an educational leader for very long.
988	County and Schools	I'm writing to express my concern over possible elimination of full day kindergarten. Why would anyone think to cut pure education for our kids? There are a thousand other things to cut before we cut direct educational services to our kids. Did you forget your own customers - the kids who can't vote?? If this move is implemented, it will have a negative effect on our children as they move up. SOL and other scores will be negatively affected (having to teach K curriculum in 1st grade, 1st grade curriculum in second grade and so on or compress studies so no in-depth learning is accomplished... Why don't you cut bloated, incompetent administrative or back end support staff first? Oh - can't do that.... the budget staff IS the administrative staff.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
989	County	I suggest that you don't cut elementary band programs. Many kids will miss out on a great opportunity and the middle school and high school band programs will suffer.
990	Schools	Go ahead and raise our taxes... marginally. I don't want OCES to lose all day kindergarten or our asst. principals or our School Based Technology Specialists and I definitely don't want to see class sizes increased. Thank you.
991	Schools	Do not cut elementary band and strings. The value of these programs has been well documented. Students involved in music do better in school. They learn other skills such as working as part of a group, time management, and self discipline. Fairfax County instrumental music programs are respected throughout the nation. Make sure this well deserved reputation is preserved.
992	Schools	Please do not eliminate band and orchestra instruction on the elementary level. This would prove disastrous on multiple levels. Before cutting what has been considered something "extra", think about the consequences, short and long term.
993	County and Schools	In response to budget cuts, We certainly doesn't agree to cut music school program. The program does contribute a lot to the well being of kids. Music and arts is a part of our life and without it life has no meaning. We have many good and well talented school teachers and students. Many students now are very frustrated, sad and disappointed to this propose cuts. Please hear our students, please don't take music and arts away from them as we are the best in the country. Thank you for taking time reading this letter.
994	Schools	In reviewing your list of potential budget cuts, I believe the following are the most important: 1) Give the teachers raises. We can not maintain the level of education we have in the county without attracting top talent. 2) Do not cut Instructional Assistants, Guidance Counselors, Psychologists, Social Workers, or Custodians. 3) Do not reduce school-based Technology Specialists. Many of the other items are wonderful programs, but are "extras", such as foreign language immersion, band, strings, and foreign languages in elementary schools.
995	County and Schools	Dear Fairfax County School Board Members, Please do not cut the band /orchestra programs at the elementary school level!!!! These programs are vital. Time and time again studies prove that playing an instrument positively impacts academic performance. Elementary school is the best time to introduce children to playing an instrument. It's a great time to try out one or more instruments when the academic demands are not as intense. It helps set a foundation of discipline and responsibility, which are important for success in school and in life. At the same time it's fun and a great creative outlet when there are so many stressors in our children's lives. We believe that eliminating the music program at this grade level will have a negative impact on the middle school and high school music programs. These programs are known for their excellence and have turned out many fine musicians. All four of my children began playing an instrument in elementary school. We cannot imagine denying this experience to the up and coming elementary school age kids. What a travesty!!! This is an idea that should not even be contemplated!

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
996	Schools	It is critical that we not cut elementary string and band programs. The opportunity to explore music in the elementary years is far too precious to lose, and will result in a dramatic reduction in the number of musicians in the middle school and high school years. Numerous students will never learn to play. So many cannot afford expensive private lessons, and depend entirely on the school program. For many students, music is one of the things that brings them the most satisfaction and accomplishment in school-taking this away would be tragic.
997	County and Schools	Since joining the school band, my once struggling daughter is now excelling academically. I contribute her success not only for her own hard work, but to the skilled teachers and diverse programs offered at Fairfax County. Specifically, the band program has taught by daughter to think differently and more creatively in solving abstract problems. I have a son that is in first grade and was looking forward to having him join the progressive program as well. I strongly believe continuing to eliminate these critical programs will negatively impact our students.
998	Schools	Please do not cut the elementary strings and band program. My daughter came home after hearing the elementary band and said "Mom, I want to play the flute." She continued playing through middle school and high school and is currently a music major at JMU! Without this program she may never have picked up an instrument. At every district band concert I have attended (5), all the guest conductors have commented on Fairfax County's music program and how wonderful it is. Music has been proven to improve academics. Please reconsider cutting such a vital program.
999	County and Schools	Fairfax County is known for it's superior schools and as one of the wealthiest counties in the nation I don't understand why my fourth grader has 35 kids in his class. As development continues, builders are not required to contribute to local school which creates great hardships with climbing enrollment. I recognize that my taxes are paying for the whole state, however we must find a way to maintain top quality education in a highly diverse and educated area. Maybe this is a state issue...but we need to fight for what we have paid for through taxes...
1000	County	PLEASE SAVE The MUSIC in the schools!!!! If it had not been for the music program, my children would have never had the opportunity to grow their self esteem, confidence and be around good kids doing good things!!!!
1001	Schools	I am very supportive of the proposal to eliminate National Board&#8208;Certified Teacher stipends and tuition reimbursements. This is an expensive program that benefits a very narrow group of educators and does not ensure better classroom instruction for children. The money could be better used to close the current \$176 million budget shortfall.
1002	Schools	I feel that full day Kindergarten is the most important item to not be touched. These students will be at a real disadvantage if they are not allowed to attend school full time. With the No Child Left Behind Act expecting all children to pass state exams, the students need to be in school getting a good foundation for their learning. Please do not cut All day kindergarten.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1003	County and Schools	Dear Budget Committee, I am writing to register my opposition to the proposed cutting of the elementary school music programs. It has been well documented how beneficial music instruction is to children. Introducing them to musical instruction and orchestra or band playing in the elementary grades is necessary in light of the length of time it takes to become proficient on an instrument. Starting an instrument in grade school and progressing through middle school allows students to play at sophisticated levels in high school and beyond.. Music instruction has long been considered an essential part of a good education. This enrichment of students' lives is invaluable. Fairfax County Public Schools have long been considered a model education system. I consider it short sighted and misguided even to consider eliminating music from the curriculum. I strongly urge you to reconsider. Sincerely,
1004	County and Schools	After looking at your proposed budget cutbacks I was appalled to see that elementary band and strings was on the table. Fairfax County is known for their music programs and is a leader in music education in this country. To eliminate something that enriches the lives of young students and increases their chances of success later in life is unacceptable. Music is one of Gardner's multiple intelligences and is a part of the core curriculum. If you need to raise taxes in order to preserve the quality of life and increase activity fees that would be acceptable but to eliminate the roots from a tradition of excellence will not work.
1005	Schools	Please, please do not cut the Music and Band programs in our schools. The band program has been one of the best experiences my daughter has had in school. The program teaches so much more than music -- responsibility, teamwork, and discipline. And it keeps our children busy and out of trouble -- no time to just hang out and party. Please do not cut this program!
1006	County and Schools	The School boards proposal to eliminate full time Kindergarten in order to cover parts of the budget shortfall is simply ludicrous. Why would you even consider cutting our future? There are already enough children entering the school system with huge variations in learning levels and cutting full day Kindergarten will just leave those children further behind. This will pull down the level of schooling, pull down Fairfax County School ratings and ultimately pull down home value as and the appeal of the county. We need to invest in our future and our future are our children and their start into life through a good education. Find another area to cut, our children will have to suffer enough from our mistakes and damages to the environment.
1007	County	The Fairfax County Public Schools band and strings program serves as a shining example of instrumental music in the public schools. It is known and respected throughout the music community in Virginia and beyond. To consider eliminating a program that serves over 24,000, 70% of the county's 4th-6th grade students is completely unacceptable!
1008	Schools	Do NOT cut the music program. This would cause long term deprivation for a short term gain.
1009	Schools	Do not cut the music programs. They are so important to so many children. Music provides a means of satisfaction and self respect that some can not get any where else.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1010	County	I am disappointed to see that elementary band and strings is still on the updated "potential FY 2011 Program and Service Reductions" list.
1011	County and Schools	Please do not take away the band programs at FCPS. They are a great part of children's lives!
1012	Schools	Please save the Spanish Immersion programs. Our children highly benefit for the acquisition of another language not only for job purposes but also to better serve their multicultural community. Help make our children citizens of the world, by supporting the Spanish Immersion programs in our school system. At the same time, help foreign children better adapt to our schools by allowing them to interact and teach their language to their english speaking peers. Since kindergarten through middle school, The language immersion programs have touched so many lives and open minds to become more understanding of other cultures and to promote peace.
1013	Schools	I am highly opposed to any changes to the band and strings program in the elementary schools. This would be a short-sighted fix to budget problems, and would have a detrimental effect on all levels of music education in the county. In addition, it would most negatively affect low-income students who do not have the resources for outside music education. Please do not cut the music programming. It is a vital part of our school system and is one of the aspects of Fairfax County schools that put our school system above and beyond other school systems around the country.
1014	Schools	Please keep funding for the arts and music.
1015	County and Schools	Music programs motivate students and create discipline and teamwork with the students. How about cutting some paychecks in the higher ups of the Board of Education....How much money do these six figures need to make?
1016	Schools	Please do not eliminate Band and Strings programs from our children's education. The Arts, especially music is vital to our children's educational and development!
1017	County and Schools	Elementary music programs should not be eliminated. Music is one of the most enriching activities available. The removal of elementary music would also cripple our high school programs.
1018	County	PLEASE DO NOT ELIMINATE ANY MUSIC PROGRAMS IN OUR SCHOOLS!! IT IS EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL TO THE CHILDREN!
1019	County	Libraries: buy more paperbacks, less hardbacks

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
1020	County and Schools	<p>It is unfortunate that last year, only a bandage was put on the last fiscal year and we come to this yet once again.... County employees not receiving a pay increase, medical premiums increasing up to 18 percent for Cigna, workload is overwhelming. Schools at risk of overcrowded classes and the risk of Fairfax County not being able to provide quality education for our future leaders. Please do not cut the libraries who were hit hard last year, we need our libraries and please do not cut anything out of the budget that will affect our seniors, children, public safety or those individuals who are at risk. Also, if pay increases are not given to Fairfax County employees, they should not be given to any sector of Fairfax County employees. Also, programs that assist those dealing with Domestic Violence in our communities should not be decreased. When there are 408 reports of DV just in the Alexandria area alone....there is a problem. I would consider a furlough day again, but think about the loss of income and how it affects workers and their families. Possibly looking into a 4 day work week, I think would be feasible. Working from home if possible, teleworking. We do need to take a look at school lunches which are mostly processed food. I would not mind packing a more healthy lunch for my children. Recreational Activities, RecPac, some parents are able to receive scholarships, possibly increasing the portion that eligible parents have to pay. Taking a closer look at clients who may have services in Fairfax County but live in other jurisdictions. Please let's not spend money on more building, stop! Stop taxing homeowners! It's interesting, there is now an office to prevent homelessness which requires staff, etc. , we can create more jobs but not able to balance the budget. This year, let's not put a bandage on the budget, come up with a real plan.</p>
1021	County	<p>The public libraries have already suffered huge cuts in staff, hours and materials. The libraries serve a vast cross section of Fairfax County citizens. From homework support, to programs for children, to materials and activities for seniors and new English learners, to consumer information, to financial and investing information , to recreational reading and audio books, to instructional and entertainment DVDs, to programs for youth of all ages, and much more the library is a vital part of the life of our county. The library has been targeted for more extreme cuts than other County services. This is wrong. Support our libraries. We need them.</p>
1022	County and Schools	<p>All training and conferences should be eliminated. Students should pay for AP/ IB testing. Why should my tax dollars pay for some ones college credit? School Cluster offices should be abolished. Take FLES and strings and band out of the elementary schools. Students should pay to play sports. Schools should cut high school electives and return to a six period day. Then they could start later in the morning. Money should go only to schools and public service workers only.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1023	Schools	Fairfax County must support the school system. The Technology Specialists (SBTS) are essential to the success of technology use and integration. They co-teach, provide training and support, conduct administrative tasks, and support the community with technology use, safety, and accessibility. This role is essential to the success of many schools beyond the use of technology. Technology specialists conduct the same tasks as assessment and instructional coaches. Our school would not be where it is today if there was not a Technology Specialist there to support everyone. I cannot believe the county would not support this role and initiative in the schools.
1024	Schools	I find it hard to believe that as one of the richest counties in the country we can't find the funding for music and full-day kindergarten. As a resident of southern Fairfax county I am tired of most of our resources going to Mclean and Great Falls. Until the entire county can have full-day kindergarten a cost saving measure should be to do away with ALL full-day kindergarten in the county. Why should I have to pay for before care and after care when some of the richest parts of the county are being subsidized by MY taxes.
1025	County and Schools	I am devastated by the news that Fairfax County would even consider cutting the elementary band and strings program. As an alumnae of Fairfax County schools, a former Fairfax County elementary music teacher and a musician, I can say with complete authority that the instrumental & general music programs I took part in while a student at Flint Hill Elementary School shaped who I am as an adult. Not only did they provide a foundation for my future participation in the Thoreau & Madison bands, but the skills learned (which include discipline & focus) shaped who I've become as an adult. I know that balancing a budget is an immense challenge, but I implore you to seek alternate areas in which to trim costs in order to save a program that has long been a foundation for the strong middle & high school instrumental music programs that are recognized nationally.
1026	Schools	Please keep Kindergarten and aftercare SAAC programs, particularly at the Columbia Elementary School. This is an important part of our community and is key to home values. Please find other ways to close the budget deficit.
1027	Schools	I urge you not to cut funding for the partial immersion language programs. The time to learn a second language is in elementary school, not later. Please do not fail our children.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
1028	County and Schools	<p>I believe that the County and Schools should look at middle-management thinning possibilities. I am a middle-manager in my department and feel that we cannot afford any additional staff cuts as they need to carry out the transactional volume and are stretched to capacity already. I also see at FCPS, as both of my children are students, the possibility for cutting at the number of principals and staff assistants assigned at the secondary schools. I think that it is ridiculous to have a principle for each grade level and that the FCPS could get by adequately with a single principal for the middle school and a principal and vice principal at the high school. I note that when I visit the school, that much of the principals' times are spent as "hall monitors". This function could certainly be performed by a much cheaper level staffing model. Additionally, I feel that significant cuts could be made in combining management and operational functions between the County and Schools. For instance, why couldn't there be a single FAMIS administrator for both financial systems modules rather than them each having one...same for CASPS and other systems that both entities use. Why does there need to be a CFO function for both sides? Couldn't there be a single Chief Financial Officer at the County with a Deputy Chief at the FCPS level? There is too much redundancy. Some of these positions need to be freed up from regular duties to deploy the new ERP system as significant resources are needed to support that effort. Additionally, I see significant waste of effort because in the Dept of Housing and the Dept of Human Services, we "enable" bad business practice across Federal, State, and Local levels just because its the way it has been done for years. Case in point is for TANF refunds that are not received by the "client"...rather than the State issuing its own replacement refund check, the County has to cut them a check, track it, request a reimbursement from the State, the State processes the reimbursement and cuts a check to the County. All of this back and forth is unnecessary administrative effort and we should work to fix it. This also happens with Federal SSI checks and in repatriation cases. What could happen in a single step at the State or Federal level, with just as quick of service to the client due to today's technologies, etc. ends up with several wasted administrative steps. We also need to stop buying Park land and Housing units, etc. for a while. In this economic downturn, it makes no sense to add more facilities that require us to expand government to maintain and operate them. On one hand, we are shrinking government staff through RIF, but then we turn-around and expand the need for more staff (or contracts) to cover the costs of upkeep...</p>
1029	County	<p>I would suggest, simply, that the county find a solution for the budget that does not include elimination of the music programs. It is one of the most important programs for developing well-rounded, well-educated students. It is a chance to help students build social skills, artistic skills, as well as improve upon their motor and mathematics skills.</p>
1030	County	<p>Closing libraries is a very bad idea. It makes sense to adjust the budget according to the tough times, but keep it simple and smooth. Now technology is available to analyze the facts (data mining) and formulate a strategy. Combat the situation and when the situation improves, revive all the services. The public view about Libraries and Parks is shortsighted. Libraries are not to be linked with financial resources. No library, no knowledge for the younger generation who will be the future driving force for the country.</p>



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1031	Schools	Please don't cut elementary school band and orchestra programs. It is such an important time for kids to be exposed to music and playing an instrument. It sets the tone for their musical interest for junior high and high school. The arts are so important to kids development. If you need to cut something what about elementary school P.E. teachers. I think that P.E. is very important as well, but when I was a kid our regular teachers organized games and things to do at P.E. time. Regular teachers can't teach band and orchestra.
1032	County	Moving to a paperless system can save money and space like in Dallas County. It doesn't just have to be a "green" issue like the environment, it can be a "green" issue like in money. <a href="http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/crime/stories/DN-paperless_11met.ART0.Central.Edition1.4c23aaf.html">http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/crime/stories/DN-paperless_11met.ART0.Central.Edition1.4c23aaf.html</a>
1033	Schools	Simply put, you need to generate revenue by raising taxes. Increase cigarette taxes, liquor taxes, and CUT the many useless administrators at that country club you call Gatehouse in FCPS. We need funding to go directly people who directly teach children. I am tired of continually getting more and more curriculum mandates for changes that are unsupported and unnecessary. We also do not need the TMPC.
1034	Schools	Eliminate part time psychology positions. Maintain full time clinical staff. If there are workers wanting to take on part time work, allow them to take on hourly assignments, temporary assignments, substitute assignments, and per diem work. Eliminate benefits. This saves a LOT of money, while offering a pool of workers to fill clinical needs throughout the year.
1035	County and Schools	Do not eliminate elementary music programs. Eliminating music at the elementary level would eviscerate the excellent music programs at the middle and high school levels in Fairfax. FCPS is nationally recognized as the best. This cut would move Fairfax to below average music programs within 5 years. Music education is not necessarily just about teaching the arts (which is important). I am a mechanical engineer and FCPS graduate. 27 years later I can still point directly to high school band and orchestra as the most influential, formative, and positive experiences of my life. Now I am witnessing that same personal growth and lifetime lessons forming in my children who are also involved in FCPS music. As a regular voter in Fairfax, be assured I will note which elected officials support this ill-advised cut and vote accordingly.
1036	Schools	Instead of part time social workers and psychologists, why not consider a pool of workers to fill clinical needs throughout the year? Those within "the pool" can take on hourly assignments, temporary assignments, substitute assignments, and per diem work without benefits. Many part timers have young children or are retired and coming back into the work force for extra money. By providing the option specified above, it allows workers to have greater flexibility over their work schedule and saves money for the county.

## ***FY 2011 Community Dialogue: Online and Telephone Comments Through November 17, 2009***

#	County/Schools?	Comment
1037	Schools	THE BEST IDEA YET!! Eliminate part time social work and psychology positions and replace with hourly assignments, temporary assignments, substitute assignments, and per diem work. Recognizing that many part timers have young children or are retired and coming back into the work force for extra money, this change will allow potential workers to have greater flexibility over their employment schedule and save money for the county by eliminating benefit packages that typically accompany part time contracts.
1038	Schools	ELIMINATE ALL PART-TIME + BENEFIT POSITIONS CHANGE OVER TO HOURLY, SUBSTITUTE, TEMPORARY, OR PER DIEM WORK TAKE A LOOK AT CLINICAL POSITIONS AND CALCULATE HOW MUCH WOULD BE SAVED BY THIS OPTION
1039	Schools	We need to focus on the core requirements in our school programs. I think it is important that we cut the budget as many members of the community have also had to cut back. If we have to cut programs, I would start with the Assistant Principals and elementary band and strings. Then I would look at the foreign language programs if future cuts are needed. Thank you.
1040	Schools	When it comes to language, families who have lived in and paid taxes in this county for decades are the ones that will lose an invaluable opportunity if the language immersion program is eliminated. While I believe that everyone should learn English, I am disheartened to learn that the county is focusing only on teaching the new-comers English and discounting the importance of offering all students the opportunity to be bi-lingual.
1041	Schools	Use a different formula for salary and benefit packages for part time workers One of the things to consider is the disparity between psychology and social work staffers working part and full time jobs. Example: A part time psychologist or social worker usually has one school A full time psychologist or social worker usually has three schools Yet a part time psychologist/social worker earns half the salary of a full time worker (.5 salary + benefits) To reduce the budget, the county should consider placing part time workers on per diem status without benefits.
1042	Schools	Please don't cut the music program in the elementary schools in Fairfax county. Music develops the brain, it is an important part of learning.
1043	Schools	Whatever you do, do NOT remove music and arts programs. That is terrible idea.
1044	Schools	I do not believe that getting rid of the elementary band and string programs is your answer. I believe that in doing so, it will essentially decimate the middle and high school programs in years to come. This change would cause more problems than it would be trying to fix.
1045	County and Schools	I think it is a bad idea to eliminate the music program from elementary schools. This keeps children involved at an early age in a program that has been proven to stimulate the brain and make them smarter. It also keeps children focused on positive activities that they can build on for middle school and high school. I'm a firm believer that being involved in music helps a child do better in school. It keeps our children out of trouble, giving them an interest to focus their energy into. Too much idle time even for an elementary school child can lead them down the wrong path. Find something else to cut please NOT THE MUSIC PROGRAM!!

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1046	Schools	Please do not eliminate band and string instruction from the elementary schools. This will severely impact the great high school programs that Fairfax County is widely know for among other high schools, colleges and professionals on the east coast.
1047	Schools	Please do not cut elementary band and strings. These are very important programs and have a huge impact on kids' lives, their study habits, and their satisfaction with what they can accomplish. It would also have a huge detrimental impact on middle and high school music programs. If you kill the roots the tree will eventually die. Don't risk this short term small financial savings as it will have a huge long term negative impact for years to come, even when funding is restored.
1048	County and Schools	A very obvious suggestion would be to have "Energy Conservation Week" in February, where schools would be closed. Baltimore County was doing this for years. During that time the county would save money on buses, lunches, gas and electric, etc..... The students could still have 180 days, if they went to school on selected half day Mondays. This would be an act of going green on the part of the county. Let's be smart about this! So many residents moved to this area because of the schools. Let's not let them down.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1049	Schools	I read with great dismay that the FCPS is considering cutting band and orchestra in the elementary schools in the school year 2010-11. As a child, I was learned to play flute in fourth grade in just such a program in Maine. Participating in band taught me math skills, problem solving, team work, listening skills, patience in addition to broadening my cultural horizons and imbuing me with a lifelong love of music. When I was in seventh grade, my city had a tax cap and cut 95% of the extracurricular activities and teachers. This act destroyed, in one blow, a vibrant and enriching extracurricular program. My fellow students and I greatly missed the once vibrant music program. Despite the city's short-sightedness, many of us pursued our studies and petitioned to keep the music program alive. I went on to play piccolo, baritone horn, and trombone. In college, I pursued music as an outlet from an very rigorous academic program, where is introduced me, a girl from Maine, to students in St. Louis, Missouri, and around the world. Although I was never an outstanding musician, band opened my cultural views and introduced me to new ways of thinking and analyzing, many of which were key to my academic success. Thus I learned far more than mere music from the school music program. Now, thirty years later, I have resumed music lessons with my son, Jacob, who took up the violin a few years ago. In short, a school music program greatly influence my life, and I want my son to have similar opportunities. One reason my husband and I decided to return from our overseas tours, where we serve the U.S. government, was to give our son an opportunity to participate in FCPS's vibrant music program. As taxpayers, we very much support the program and do not want to see it cut. Jacob is eager to participate next year, when he enters fourth grade. Many other parents and students echo are support of the music program as evidenced by the fact that last year 24,871 (70% of all 4th, 5th and 6th grade) students were enrolled in the elementary band and strings programs. This represented approximately 117 teaching positions and is growing every year. Please confirm that you will do all you can to support the music program and that you will do you very most to convince your colleagues of its vital need in FCPS.
1050	County and Schools	Do not cut funding for elementary band and strings program
1051	Schools	Consider a furlough before putting people out of jobs.
1052	County and Schools	Cutting out the Strings and Band program s at elementary level will cost the county it's reputation as being an outstanding program. This cut will affect the middle and high school programs performance levels.. The elementary level is when we can find the interest and develop it. When students enter middle and high school they will have an immediate bond with their school. The band and strings programs foster good academics, good character and good team work.. If the county proceeds with this cut, It will put teachers out of work who have invested a lifelong commitment to music. Many of these teachers have earned a masters and have protected their craft to share with our student body. Please do not put them out on the street. Please find another way to make the budget work
1053	County	During hard economic times, people turn to the Parks and the Libraries for entertainment, because it is free. As usage goes up, the County is considering cuts to staff and hours at these much needed resources. We do not support these cuts. We prefer to see an increase in real estate tax to cover the loss in revenue.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1054	Schools	Another increase in class size in our school system will negate all the other advantages that our tax dollars provide to the schools. Raise the real estate tax to help cover the gap.
1055	County	Urgent that we restore the budget for the county library system, both to restore staff levels, operating hours and to restore materials-acquisition budgets. Library system is one of the most visible and universally useful benefits of county government, and its resources are especially needed in economic hard times.
1056	Schools	I am a concerned teacher and a parent that eliminating all of the amazing programs from Fairfax County Public Schools that are being threatened to be cut with the 2010-2011 budget is a horrible idea. The programs that are being threatened such as (elementary band and strings, school based technology specialists, immersion, etc.) should not be on the list for cuts next year. Also, increasing class size AGAIN is only going to make things worse. Schools are overcrowded enough as it is in some places and some schools are under crowded. We need to figure out a way to find the money to clear the deficit without hurting our children's and our teachers' futures or else there will be no Fairfax County Public Schools and are amazing reputation will cease to exist. I am fully supportive of any way to add a furlough, eliminate snow days or closing school early to figure out ways to compensate without these amazing programs being cut. We need to find a better solution instead of taking away the things that make this County so great.
1057	County and Schools	In order to reduce overall costs, suggest closing county building lights (earlier in the evening and not having excessive lights on the outer building) to reduce energy consumption and adjusting thermostats several degrees lower in the winter and higher in the hotter months. Also suggest increasing the rental rates of the gyms/auditoriums for community athletics/meetings. Would discourage cutting athletics/music/art from school curriculum if possible.
1058	Schools	The school system could save lots of money if it charged a flat fee for students who ride buses to school. FCPS should cut the \$1,00,000+ target spending in the Supt Office and \$700,000+ in discretionary Cluster Office money. Professional devt money should be eliminated in every Department, Cluster, and other offices. FCPS could provide its own in-house training and exchange of ideas instead of paying big bucks to "big name" presenters. The 3 extra "snow days" should be cut from the calendar and all employees given a 3 day furlough. Extend the school day by 1.5 hrs Tues-Fri and close all schools on Monday for a 4-day work week.
1059	Schools	Please do not cut elementary school music programs. They are very important to our children. Musicians are better students, they learn the necessity of hard work and practice. They learn math skills and language skills through music also. Band and orchestra and choral music outside of general music classes give students skills that serve them well all through school, including college. Musical pursuits also create well-rounded students.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1060	Schools	It's Fairfax County's emphasis on foreign language that lead my husband and I to purchase our home in Fairfax County two months ago. Please don't eliminate foreign language programs in the elementary schools. This is an important education for our children's and our country's future. If cuts have to be made, I'd prefer to see things like all-day kindergarten go (and I have a child entering kindergarten next year). Keep academic programs!
1061	Schools	Do not cut the elementary school music programs. They are so important for music programs in the middle and high school levels because that is the time for students to try out music for the first time. Also, music programs help with time management skills and there is a plethora of research done that states that music helps students do better in school. Why not start creating better students in elementary school?
1062	Schools	Considering the deep cuts that are proposed in for FCPA 2011 budget, I am struggling to understand why bussing to GT centers is not slated to be eliminated rather than educational programs. The county provides a specialized education and prioritizes transpiration for some students over essential programs for others. The county is not obligated to provide transportation to students beyond the student's base school, this is a "nice to have." The county is obligated to continue to provide an outstanding education to a wide array of students through Band and Strings, Language Immersion, Special Needs.
1063	Schools	While I understand the pressures we all face, elimination of the strings and chorus program in the elementary schools is not a good solution. I'd rather see class sizes go up a bit. All three of my kids have been through the program and I think it made them much better students.
1064	Schools	Please, please, please do not eliminate the string and band programs from our elementary schools. Countless studies have proven the multiple benefits to kids who study instruments. Unlike many of the things students are taught in school, an appreciation for music truly will enhance their lives forever. The day that the Fairfax County Public Schools system cuts music education from its curriculum is the same day FCPS forfeits its place among the finest public schools in the nation. It is shameful that eliminating music education is even being considered.
1065	Schools	Please do not cut all strings and band. My children and the children of nearly everyone one I know participate and benefit from the programs. The teachers are amazing: in very little time each they inspire the kids to do so much more! Peer reviewed research such as by Rauscher et al (1993) and Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Academic and Social Development among many others. I know you have difficult choices - perhaps make it every other week and spread teachers around - just please do not cut completely! Thanks,

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<b>#</b>	<b>County/Schools?</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1066	County and Schools	To Whom It May Concern, Libraries and schools are the foundation of learning and knowledge sharing in our communities. People need to have resources available to enhance their learning and expand their knowledge base. Libraries provide this avenue for them. For the schools, keep the programs that currently exist! Propose raising activity fees to keep the programs, and using other funds in the budget if possible to keep them alive. Children needs exposure to the arts and music. Please do not cut these programs. Programs that have limited impact or are not fully utilized by a broad segment of the population may need to be considered for cuts as long as they do not affect a high risk group of individuals. Thanks for considering.
1067	Schools	Please do not cut the Immersion program.
1068	County and Schools	Please hold the line on spending in all areas -- yes, even in the school budget. For the life of me, I can't understand how we have an impending budget deficit yet voters just approved adding more than \$200 million in debt to the Fairfax county budget. I have three children in the county school system (all in elementary school) and a fourth will be in the system in two years. Nevertheless, times are tough, the budget is tight and higher taxes will only make the economy and family budgets worse. If Fairfax county has to cut full-day kindergarten or band and strings, then so be it. If teachers salaries must be frozen, then that is what needs to be done. Salaries in most other sectors are also level or even falling (and meanwhile, prices for most goods have decreased over the last year). If the Superintendent or the teachers union or the PTA say we will lose good teachers if there is a pay freeze, don't be swayed. Most will not leave a good job in a sour economy. Furthermore, even if some would leave, there will be dozens of qualified applicants for each slot. Hold the line -- don't turn the Fairfax county budget down the same road as California's or New Jersey's. Thank you the opportunity to share my views.
1069	Schools	Class sizes should not be increased. As it is teachers barely have time to interact with students and even one more student in a classroom will add to teachers' and students' stress. I would rather see what limited money we have spent on teachers rather than on equipment and technology.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1070	County	<p>With regard to the proposed cut in library funding, I hope you will reconsider this. The libraries provide the tools for the county students to augment their learning and space to meet with their classmate to prepare course work. Additionally the library provides space for other community learning activities to occur, like the ESL courses, Tax preparation for seniors, and for student to practice their reading to companion dogs. The reduced library hours have already impacted activities that occur. To further reduce the hours will impact the ability of students and citizens to engage in learning opportunities. I believe also that as a county we need to provide opportunities for our students that keep them out of trouble (Gangs and crime). I volunteer at the Centreville Library developing and maintaining the ground. I have many students that complete their volunteer hours working with me. I have observed these students working in the library on their project that reflects their volunteer activities. I have seen student skateboarders also utilizing the library for their activities. We need to maintain the hours to provide a positive place for students. As I said it is not only the students that benefit. Many of the community members study and research materials at the library. The seniors also benefit through the different activities that utilize the library. I hope that you will reconsider the cuts to the Library Funding.</p>
1071	County	Buy out DROP employees with 6-12 months to go.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1072	County and Schools	<p>I work for the Library System. We are going to be subjected to about another 17% cut for FY2011. We are busier than ever with fewer staff; our branch lost five staff for FY 2010. We are also charging new fees which our customers are for the most part, paying. If our staff are cut further, the system will suffer. When anyone is ill, sometimes we have one person covering our service desks for hours at a time with no break. We often ask other branches to assist us to cover our service desks when we are short staffed; the other branches often cannot send anyone either due to illness or lack of staffing. Staff is being pushed to the brink of exhaustion by having to be available seven days per week. (I am working seven days this week, and am doing it because it must be done). In order to maintain staffing without layoffs or further cuts, please consider voluntary furloughs of full-time staff willing to shorten their shifts by an hour or two per day for a year or two. Consider allowing voluntary furlough on a rotating basis for full-time staff for a week or two per volunteer. It would be a sacrifice, but for the willing staffers absorbing some loss would assist others who need to work for benefits. Please also consider asking our customers to bear some of the financial burden for library costs. The public should be asked to shoulder meeting room costs; they should pay for holds since the items are often trucked halfway across the county and handled by many staff members before they are picked up by customers; pay for holds not picked up for the same reason as charging for holds (transport, staff hours). Close libraries during statistically lighter use hours and have shifts such as 11-8 or 11-9. Close libraries on Sundays for one year or two. This may be painful, but it would certainly save FCPL and the County money. Customers re-educate themselves and we often do not have other services open on Sundays. For a year or two, it could be done. Schedule delivery three times per week instead of five. Yes, branches would have to hold bins and work harder on each end, but we are already doing that! The school system eats up 51% of County budget. Something needs to go. Whether we cut some programs for two to three years, something needs to go. Try to cut the school budget to 45% if possible for several years. Keep teachers, but cut some services or ask administrators to consolidate positions somehow. It could be done. Yes, our school system is very good and it can still be leaner and be good. Sacrifices need to be made. Everyone else in the county has done so. All agencies need to make cuts. Quality of life places like libraries are where people go when they have nowhere else to go: to read, to look for jobs; to type their resume; to check the internet for jobs. We are a small gold mine and oasis for these customers, as well as students, for parents teaching their small children reading readiness. Where else can you get such materials freely and do so much?</p>
1073	County	Evaluate the cost effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch Programs.
1074	Schools	Please protect the strings! Feel free to raise my taxes to cover the costs. It is a critical program.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1075	Schools	I respectfully disagree with the Board's proposed budget cuts. In eliminating the Elementary level Band and Strings programs, the Board is looking to eliminate so much more. The unexpected effect starts at the Middle School band level. The Symphonic and Jazz bands would not be able to exist at their level. Almost all the kids coming up would be beginner level players. There are possibly 2 kids in every Elementary school band who have received instruction other than that offered by the schools. That does not a Symphonic Band make. But what is the big deal about a MS Symphonic Band? Have you heard our High School bands? They are award winning. Honor School is not a small feat, but by taking away one of the root causes for the High Schools earning this distinction, the Board is showing that Honor School is not an important thing for students to work to attain. More importantly, the world that opens up for students who are involved in music programs is amazing. Examples? Studies have proven that kids who are involved in music programs get better grades. I have 4 kids. 3 in the Honors/Gifted Programs and all have been on Honor rolls. Another Example? My son is the most fidgety kid. He does not have a disability, he is just always on the go. He had no direction for his life. He picked up the clarinet in 5th grade and it was instant. He has a natural ability. An ability that he would not have thought to look at in 7th grade. In 7th grade there are so many electives, he may not have chosen it. He is now considering applying to Conservatories instead of Colleges. My kids won't be affected by your change. They are out of Elementary school. But my family and friends and I have taken a personal interest in this particular program because of the good it does for the children. As an alternative, there are a lot of Free and Reduced lunches, financial aid and scholarships given out to the needy in the community. I feel it is so important to help these families in their need. However, especially in Annandale, there is a growing population of families that are sharing their single family homes with 2-4 other families. These household incomes exceed the maximum income for assistance through these programs. Yet, each family is applying for aid and receiving it. Before you take away a beneficial program, how about doing an Audit on the spending of current programs? I thank you so much for your time.
<b>Added November 12, 2009</b>		
1076	Schools	I can't image what would happen if the School-Based Technology Specialist wasn't at my school every day. All I know is that it wouldn't be pretty! Things would come to a grinding halt without her. Time down in my job would certainly affect the school system; I am a student information assistant and rely on access to my computer all the time. Her absence would certainly wind up costing the county in many ways.
1077	Schools	Where are the cuts at the administrative level? All the potential cuts that have been listed directly impact our kids. Surely some administrative level downsizing can be done so that our children do not have to lose out on band and strings. Save our music!

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1078	Schools	The proposed cuts for Fairfax County Schools are absolutely ridiculous. Cutting those schools that are fortunate enough to have full-day kindergarten classes is detrimental to my children's education. Why are you not cutting the immersion programs? If you want your child to be immersed in Chinese, Spanish etc then the parent can pay extra for it. Those programs are being funded but basic education is being cut across the board. Absolutely asinine thought process. Education programs need to be re-prioritized because your proposed cuts make no sense. Not giving our teachers pay increases will only make them go elsewhere where they can receive a competitive salary. The once phenomenal Fairfax County Public Schools will be down at the bottom of the list nation-wide and no longer considered one of the best public school systems in the country. You MUST reconsider the detrimental decisions that are being made to our schools.
1079	County and Schools	Please consider keeping the foreign language programs/immersion programs in all elementary schools. They are such a great asset to our children and they would be at great lost if the program is eliminated... Thank you.
1080	County and Schools	Things you 'can' do: increase class size (how did those nuns ever handle all those kids back then??); increase community fees for usage of school facilities; technology specialists? are they really necessary?; put more summer school programs online; do away with year-round schools. Things you 'can't' do: mess with music or foreign language programs.
1081	Schools	Please do not cut full-day kindergarten, language immersion, or fine arts. Please do not increase class sizes. They are large enough already.
1082	County and Schools	I think it is disgusting that the richest county in Virginia is talking about making these substantial cuts to the public school program in ANY area. Every single one of these cuts that is made will impact children for the worse. This doesn't even include the point that our Fairfax County teachers have not had even the slightest raise in years. We are supposed to be preparing these children to be our future leaders, business people, doctors, etc. and this is not preparing them to meet this country's future needs. All that is being done is to mortgage the future of our country. The U.S. is already far behind many other countries as far as our education system goes, and these cuts would simply be ensuring we get farther behind. Shame on the county and the state for not looking to either raise taxes a bit to get the funding that we need to support education or for not choosing to make cuts in other areas that would have less impact on the future of our country. I say cut nothing and look to make other changes that will subsidize these expenses.
1083	County and Schools	Step increases and cost of living raises should be restored and the offset to the cost should be accomplished by furlough days.
1084	Schools	I realize everything has to be reviewed during these times of budget constraints but have administrative costs been discussed as a cost savings? All of these cuts severely impact our children and what they have access to in the classroom. Please do not cut the foreign language programs in our elementary schools - we are a large community in a global world - its short sighted to take access to languages away from our children.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1085	County	As a proud parent of first, fifth and seventh graders in the FCPS system(Chesterbrook and Longfellow), I ask that you NOT CUT funding for ES band and strings programs in the FY 2011 budget or for the foreign language elementary school programs. These music and language programs have a wide impact on our elementary school students (70% of 4th, 5th and 6th graders are enrolled in band and strings) and language and band programs provide a valuable source of enrichment for which our Fairfax County public schools are nationally known. Please do not cut these valuable programs!
1086	Schools	The FLES program at Belle View Elementary is such an asset to my son's education. It is programs like this that keep Fairfax County schools top rated nationally. My son's Spanish vocabulary and pronunciation are remarkable considering the limited time he spends in FLES per week. It really shows how effective the program and instructor are. Please look for alternatives for budget cuts and keep FLES active and supported!
1087	Schools	Our children cannot tolerate larger classroom sizes. Our teachers must be compensated at a fair level. Please do not eliminate band/music programs which are vital to overall development.
1088	Schools	We are FCPS parents and we strongly urge you to keep ELEMENTARY BAND AND STRINGS programs intact. These programs: --sharpen kids' minds and improve coordination --teach the importance and rewards of persistence and teamwork --engage kids on a creative level that other forms of instruction cannot --form wholesome social relationships that continue through high school Cutting elementary band/strings would weaken the middle- and high-school programs for which FCPS is renowned. If a modest fee per band/strings student would keep these programs intact, then this option could be explored. Elimination should not even be an option. Thank you.
1089	Schools	I am impressed by the Fairfax County Elementary School Band program. I look forward to my son experiencing band when he reaches 4th grade. I hope it will be available to him! This is an important program at Belle View Elementary and should not be cut to balance the budget. Students who study music excel in so many other areas because of the experience. What a student learns in band is far reaching and is not limited to an "arts" program.
1090	Schools	The school district should not consider eliminating band and orchestra programs. The benefits of these programs are grand.
1091	Schools	Lots of people move to and remain in Fairfax County because of the quality of its schools. Maintaining that high level of quality is a major contributing factor to maintaining property values throughout the county. In the face of the coming budget deficit, quality of the schools (including the programs that really distinguish it from other, local school districts, such as language immersion at the elementary school and middle school levels, arts partnerships and full-day kindergarten) should be one of the last things to be sacrificed.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1092	Schools	As you discuss or consider severely reducing or eliminating school-based technology support (SBTS), remember that FCPS is run by technology. All data is collected via computers, all teachers use laptops and classroom desktops daily, all special education and ESL services are monitored and conducted through the use of technology, and most of all, students need to be learning 21st century skills. In trying to balance the budget, do not pull the supports out from under the teachers. Without the school-based support, technology use, including online testing, data analysis and school improvement, access to resources, and preparation of students for real life would come to a screeching halt. Parent use of FCPS 24/7 would grind to a halt as teachers lose their in-house help, and FCPS would take a giant step backward in quality.
1093	County and Schools	In reviewing the suggested FY11 budget cuts I did not see any references made to The Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System of Fairfax County (ERFC). Does any portion of the school or county budget go to ERFC? If so, what cost saving measures, if any, can be realized from possible budget changes to ERFC?
1094	County and Schools	It is important that the Board of Supervisors increase taxes for the upcoming year in Fairfax County. Although a tax increase is difficult, the long run benefits will be better for all residents. We will be able to retain the quality school system we have worked hard to achieve, enabling Fairfax County to continue to be a desirable place to live. Making cuts such as School-Based Technology Specialists is unacceptable in today's day and age. Our children need these skills, and we need to teach them. If an increase in tax is what we need then we must do that to sustain our county and our first-class school system.
1095	Schools	Please work to retain the elementary school instrument programs. Perhaps a decrease in the variety of foods offered in the cafeteria or an increase in price of lunches would be an acceptable option for some offset/increase in revenues? Thank you.
1096	County	please find out other way to provide county budget because I think it is not a good way to reduce full time kindergarten.
1097	County and Schools	Funding must be increased to maintain basic standards in our school system. The last two years of cuts in per-pupil spending have already eliminated the fat. Not only are we in danger of no longer having a world-class system - we are in danger of cutting into the basic fundamentals of education. Everyone wants to pay lower taxes, which is understandable. If the consequence is a fundamentally inadequate school system, the trade-off simply is not worth it. The projected round of cuts would NOT support the information-and ideas-based economy we have building in northern Virginia.
1098		Please do not cut funds for our elementary school music programs.
1099	County and Schools	I do not agree with the FY2011 budget cut for the schools, specially the partial immersion schools. My son and nieces go to a Spanish immersion school and the 3 of them have benefited from that program. In my opinion there should be more schools in fairfax county which offer that program. I am not in favor of reducing the FCPS FY2011 budget.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1100	Don't Know	I strongly suggest not cutting the band/orchestra programs in Fairfax County. Having lived in the county 26 years and raising my children in Fairfax County schools I know how important the band program was in my children's development. So much is learned/gained by being in any music organization, and it would be such a horrific loss to not have a program any longer. I don't think an after school program would work, as there are too many athletic activities going on and parents as well as kids are just too busy to participate.
1101	Schools	There has been discussion of eliminating the elementary band and strings programs from the county for the 2010-2011 school year. This would cause a lot of problems in the school system. Many teachers would be out of a job that they rely on to support themselves and their families. This would also ruin the opportunity for students to learn an instrument. Cutting the program at the beginning would of course slowly cut the middle and high school levels. Learning an instrument helps students with other subjects too by helping with pattern recognition, discipline, cooperation and teamwork, listening, and self-esteem. Students who play instruments have been proven to get better test scores, so why cut a program that helps? Fairfax county public schools are already trying to do so much with very little money. We shouldn't cut what is working towards a better more rounded student.
1102	County	Strongly recommend that funding for the programs under the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board not be reduced. Especially for CROSSROADS under their Alcohol and Drug Services. CROSSROADS is doing a great job even though staff has been cut --either by budget or for other reasons. e.g. the wood working shop is not open at this time and it would be a wonderful asset for some of the individuals at CROSSROADS.
1103	Schools	Offering foreign language instruction in elementary schools is preposterous. First, most of the students in the county are already bilingual. Second, cutting an invaluable resource like an SBTS position in favor of a course that takes away from basic SOL instruction makes zero sense.
1104	Schools	Having 3 students, all in band (5th-12th), I see cutting the band/strings as a grave mistake. FFX Co. is so academically focused it fails to see need for different types of advanced learning. The pressure in school is too intense as is. Our kids are excellent musicians b/c of elem. school introduction. Their success provides an outlet, and a proven method of stimulating the brain and furthering the capacity to learn, enabling advanced thinking in their higher education classes. People learn in different ways. To eliminate such a positive program would be a detriment to those who benefit from a musical approach. It also eliminates the exploration/love of instruments at an early age. This opportunity at the MS level may be negatively affected by peer pressure with age; destroying the desire to ever try. Eliminate foreign language immersion. Music is a universal language.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1105	Schools	Please do NOT eliminate band and strings in all elementary schools! This is an important part of elementary education, and would have far-reaching negative impact for years to come at the middle school and high school levels. Instrumental music education at the elementary school level is important to build brain development in a different way than classroom instruction, build self-esteem, and provide a creative outlet for students, some of whom would not otherwise have access to. Please find some other way to cut the budget, like eliminating "extras" -- not instrumental music education!
1106	County and Schools	If the personal property tax had remained in place years ago there would be less deficit. Anyone who can afford a luxury car can pay the tax. Also having fancy designed libraries by architectures is absolutely ridiculous in these lean times. I can't imagine how much the Martha Washington library is costing. And right across the street is an old school building. But in that school building the classrooms are full, the equipment is old, yet the kids are excelling, the teachers are the best, the atmosphere is great. This is due to the teachers and staff utilizing what they have and making sure "no child is left behind". How many schools, salaries and equipment would have benefitted from the cost of one library. Frozen salaries or reduced salaries should start at the top not just hit the school teachers and staff who do all the work.
1107	Schools	Do NOT cut elementary school band or strings and Do NOT cut college counselor positions. Both of these are critical to our children and both of these serve the VAST MAJORITY of all students.
1108	County and Schools	It has been the common knowledge of educators for years now that the study of instrumental music makes students better at all academic studies because of the way it develops the brain. Instrumental music is the last thing that should be cut if we are serious about developing minds! Is the school board not made up of educators?
1109	County	Library funding needs to be restored in these hard economic times. Keep libraries open and available when the public needs to use them. This means the most availability on weekends - especially Sunday when students need to utilize the libraries for school work and projects.
1110	Schools	I am extremely upset about the proposal to eliminate elementary band and strings programs as a cost-cutting measure. In addition to its importance to my children's academic and social growth, I just signed two multi-year contracts totaling \$1600 to rent trumpets in reliance on the program's availability. Rest assured that if you eliminate these programs you will have many very irate parents to contend with in the coming months.
1111	Schools	1. Raise property taxes. 2. Raise property taxes. 3. Raise property taxes. 4. Maintain school funding. That was easy!
1112	Schools	Cutting foreign immersion and FLES programs in elementary school is not a progress. We do not need to be going backwards when faced with financial difficulties. We need to continue moving forward and try to cut costs elsewhere.
1113	Schools	Please don't cut the Elementary School level band/music programs. These may save some \$\$ now, but will have a negative impact on the children. Music is a vital part of their lives and needs to continue to shape our young minds. I would except cut backs, but not a total loss of the programs.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1114	Schools	The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors must fund critical education programs, including elementary school band and strings. This well established music program feeds our acclaimed middle and high school band programs. Your failure to take action will cut into academic achievement, participation in middle and high school band programs and potential college and career opportunities for our students. Fairfax county's nationally recognized public school achievements must continue to be supported by our Board, so that our county remains a great place to conduct business. Plus, our excellent public schools help us maintain property values -- even in recessionary times like these.
1115	Schools	I would like to voice my opinion on the Immersion Program (Languages) I believe that the Immersion Programs are a valuable addition to the county's course offerings and the programs are well known to people even outside of Fairfax. I have 2 children in the program and their learning is enhanced tremendously because of the immersion in another language. This is a program that needs to be fully funded by the county. Thank you
1116	Schools	I think because Fairfax County is such a huge school system, there must be administrative costs that can be drastically reduced. I hate the idea of people losing their jobs, but our priority must be to keep class sizes down, keep band programs afloat, etc. My son is in the AAP program at Stratford Landing where there is the suggestion that we can indeed increase class sizes even further; his class is currently at 30. The GE tract kids of the same year have between 19 and 20. We must reexamine the budget from the top down and look for more creative ideas. Wonder if the top executives pay has been frozen along with the teachers?
1117	Schools	Please do not eliminate the Strings and Band programs from the Fairfax County Public Schools. FCPS is a national leader in fine arts education. Numerous academic studies have linked music education and the study of musical instruments to higher reasoning skills and academic performance. The elementary school Strings and Band programs offer lower and middle income students the opportunity to learn a musical instrument even though their families may not be able to afford private music instruction. Last year, 24,871 (70% of all 4th, 5th and 6th grade) students were enrolled in the elementary band and strings programs. It is vitally important to offer these valuable educational opportunities to FCPS students. Please do not eliminate foreign language instruction in the FCPS elementary schools. Language immersion programs impart valuable skills to young children at ages when they are the most receptive to foreign language learning. French immersion teachers have told us that students in their classes were functioning at a higher academic level than their peers in non-immersion classrooms, and earning higher test scores. Those students continue to excel in middle and high school language classes.
1118	Schools	Please do NOT cut elementary foreign language or arts/music in our schools. To succeed in an ever-challenging world, our kids need those courses -- and the brain research is clear that they learn these best when very young. Instead, cut any sport that cannot pay for itself. Kids can always find a soccer game, but not a violin or Spanish class.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1119	Schools	If you cut the elementary band and strings programs, Fairfax County will no longer be able to boast about its "academic and arts prowess." Our students will no longer be created equal. A musical foundation will only be for the students who can afford to study privately. It is akin to those who have money may read a book. 35 year FCPS elementary general music teacher
1120	Schools	Please so not cut the strings and band program in the elementary school. It will adversely effect the programs at the high school level. I have one child in 6th grade at Sangster elementary and one child at LBSS; both are in band. It is a wonderful program allowing them to explore music but at the same time requires discipline and dedication which filters over into every aspect of school and personal life.
1121	County	In any time of economic distress one of the most important places in the community is the public library. Hours and staff have been cut dramatically in the county libraries and should not be cut even more. I'm sure that by reducing the number of bestsellers and charging for more services the library could come close to reaching it's 15 percent cut. Volunteers are not the answer - we are awesome but not as reliable as paid staff. Libraries are certainly more important than lobbyists who should be cut before library staff.
1122	County and Schools	Do not let the school board cut band at the elementary school level. The domino effect to high school will be detrimental to the music programs and subsequently, many students who would benefit from music scholarships will be effected. Please, do not cut music -- Art is an expression of the soul.
1123	Schools	I respectfully request that you do not cut the orchestra and strings elementary program from the FY 2011 Fairfax County School Budget. Music helps develop excellent students.
1124	County and Schools	<p>I believe the biggest problem is the amount of money that goes from Northern Virginia to Richmond and gets distributed to other regions. You can hardly expect us to support higher taxes when 70% of it goes elsewhere, when almost all of it should be going to support our local schools and roads! I believe you should direct more resources toward the better students and less for the least promising - in other words, reversing the trends of the last decades - for the sustainable future of our county, state, country and world. Increasing AAP class sizes to 36 and beyond while reducing Autism ratios to 2 or 3, while providing specialized semi-private bus services to children with ADD seems to turn rationing and rationality on its head. Think of at least equalizing spending on each student. Along these lines it would seem stupid to eliminate elementary music and foreign language programs and further deteriorate the AAP programs while supporting disparities in full day kindergarten availability. It is also not</p> <p>language programs. However, poverty based staffing, kindergarten, and exceptional levels of spending for "special needs" children seem like a luxury we could do without in tough times. Residents are paying huge amounts in taxes already. You need to make sure it is being used to improve conditions here - where we live!</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1125	Schools	Both of my children ages 11 and 12 have been taking the strings program since 4th grade. They are now in concert orchestra and intermediate orchestra and love it and plan to continue playing for a long time. It would be a real shame if the programs were eliminated because of budget issues.
1126	Schools	Please involve the community in choices and discussion of options. Any cuts should be spread across discretionary programs and not targeted in one area. Cutting programs in elementary schools, such as music, may have long-term implications, when the budget shortfall is not envisioned to be long-term. Administrators should be clear on what it takes to maintain Fairfax County's high standards on a national basis, and not compromise critical elements.
1127	County	In the Washington Post today, November 10, 2009, it was reported, "Wall Street surges to new 13 month high.surging after world finance leaders pledged to keep the fiscal stimulus efforts in place until after the economic recovery has been assured." After attending two county budget meetings and gaining further an understanding about the budget issues through the media and thoughtful conversations at social events, I have concluded that the county needs a revenue solution to the current budget shortfall. The public does not believe that our schools should be short-changed for a few years because real estate values have dropped. The sentiment is that no child should be left with the burden of a lesser education because he or she was born in the wrong year. Further, it will cost more in the long-run to re-build programs. An appropriate combination of raising the real estate tax rate without raising the cash paid, raising fees on such things as sports uniforms, and increasing the restraint tax is the solution to the budget shortfall. Cutting valued programs is not.
1128	Schools	I am very concerned about the elimination of the language programs on our elementary schools, specifically with JIP at GFES, which my daughters attend. I understand that eliminating Japanese in grade school will very likely affect the Japanese programs in middle and high school. I can see how Japanese may not be offered at all in middle school and the AP level eliminated in high school, if Japanese is not introduced in grade school. Just recently FCPS was moving to get language into all elem. schools, recognizing the importance of introducing foreign languages at a time when children are very receptive to them. We should not cut back on this important curriculum, but look for other budget cuts to be made. I strongly believe the buses to GT centers for students with center programs at their home school should have remained eliminated. I would also ask that if a cutback in JIP is inevitable that a daily Japanese class be provided to continue the program to some degree.
1129	Schools	Please do not cut instrumental music from the elementary schools. The current program is excellent, in part because the kids can play well by the time they get to middle school. I think it will be much harder to get kids to start instrumental music in middle school, because by that time they think it's "not cool" to learn an instrument. Also, it appears that the economy is beginning to turn around. To completely gut a program only to restart it a year or 2 later is not economical.
1130	County and Schools	Never let our children be the bill payers by cutting school programs. I would be happier if the county raised taxes to keep the schools programs funded. Raise our taxes but be sure to use the money to pay for school based programs. Our kids are our future! Thanks

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1131	Schools	I think unnecessary programs should be cut and not teachers. Decisions should be based on what is best for the entire student body and not a percentage of students in extra programs that are school-funded.
1132	County and Schools	I moved here for the schools. We left Oregon because of the schools. While I am sure there can be some "belt tightening" in the school system - it is world class and is a primary driver for attracting business and families to the area. It is dangerous to be short sighted on such a valuable asset. Please fund schools first.
1133	Schools	I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to fund our school system! If the transfer of funds from the County is not increased, FCPS is looking at Draconian cuts: no instrumental instruction in elementary school, no full day kindergarten, and many cuts in the personnel who support learning in our schools. And if our schools lose their excellent reputation, we will lose business and residents to other counties, and all of us will suffer as a result. Please, PLEASE consider cutting other county services and raising rates on some items in order to more fully fund our schools. Many of us are very willing to pay more for water, trash services, rec centers, classes and such. We are willing to have fewer open hours at our libraries and county govt. offices. We are even willing to pay higher taxes! But our schools need to be protected.
1134	Schools	Please do not consider cutting Elementary Strings, Band and Language Immersion programs. Fairfax County Schools can not rank themselves among the top school systems in the country without these programs. The middle school and high school advanced programs in strings, band and language would be decimated and would take decades to recover once reinstated. Strings, Band and Language Immersion are ESSENTIAL core programs! Thank you
1135	Schools	RE: Modified School Calendar I'm asking that funding be restored for the modified school calendar. This is one program that is truly working in the schools that have it and is delivering huge benefits. First of all the kids that are behind grade level get the extra time and attention that they need and it's one reason that the SOL scores have been improving. Additionally, for the kids that are at or above grade level the modified schedule with it's intercession classes gives them even more opportunities to be challenged and get extra learning. It's one program that benefits the entire student population and as such, ask you find a way to continue funding it.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1136	County	I am writing to express concern about budget cuts resulting in staff layoffs at the Hidden Pond Nature Center in Springfield. HPNC has had a great impact on my life. I began attending "Nature Day Camps" with HPNC when I was a child. Through the efforts of the staff and the exhibits at the nature center I developed an appreciation for wildlife and environmental issues that I still carry today. As a teenager I volunteered at HPNC with Mike McCaffrey, Jim Pomeroy, and Clara Ailes. I directly credit the time I spent there with learning responsibility, developing a strong work ethic, and keeping me out of trouble. I also realized the importance of volunteerism and I continue to participate in community service as an adult. The staff at HPNC excited my interest to the point that I attended Virginia Tech to study biology. I do not know for certain if I would have had the interest or character to enter and complete a program of study at such a university without my HPNC experience. I am now a law enforcement officer in South Florida and sincerely believe that I would not be where I am today without the positive influence of these fine people. As a parent of two children I often find myself wishing we had similar people and programs in our parks and rec system. Literally THOUSANDS of Fairfax County residents have benefitted from the hard work of people like Mike, Jim, and Clara. In an increasingly urbanized area Hidden Pond Nature Center really is one of the treasures of Fairfax County. I realize that sacrifices must be made in the current economy, but I urge you to look elsewhere to make those cuts. HPNC is one of the positive faces of the Fairfax County Government. To reduce the effectiveness of this tremendous asset would harm the image of the County Government and would be a great disservice to the citizenry. It is difficult to express how important this is in 750 characters. Please contact me if you require additional comment or information.
1137	County and Schools	In light of the severe budget deficit and the cuts that are going to be made, I want to ask that you please don't make cuts in special education. My son has an autism spectrum disorder and receives special services. Without these services, he would not be successful. Please don't cut any teachers or assistants from special education. My daughter is in elementary school and is in the general ed classroom. She does not need special education services but does benefit from a smaller class size, as do all children. Increasing class size only hurts the children and is tougher on the teachers. So if you feel the need to increase a class to 30 plus students, at least put an assistant in there to help the teacher out. Lastly, the teachers work very hard and deserve a pay raise. They are teaching our kids who will someday lead our country. Please include them when considering cost of living pay raises. Thank you for your time.
1138	Schools	Please do not cut the elementary strings and band programs in the Fairfax county schools. Instrumental music education must begin at an early age to be completely effective, and our students will not be able to participate in college and high school programs because they will start late, and be unable to keep up. The current level of instruction is excellent, and reaches a high percentage of the school population. Please consider options which do not affect as many students.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1139	County and Schools	Subject: SACC program I urge the county supervisors to sustain funding for the School Aged Child Care (SACC) program in the FY11 budget. As a SACC Parent Advisory Council member I hear from a lot of parents about the value of this program as compared to "lesser" programs run by private day cares and by other local counties. The current economic situation is particularly hard on the working parents of Fairfax County...many of whom are now working in jobs that pay less and demand more hours. The SACC program gives these parents a safe, reliable, affordable before/after care option while supporting the outstanding educational values that Fairfax County has always upheld. For parents working extra hours, SACC's "homework club" is critical (and teachers would almost certainly agree). Additionally, the program is primarily funded by parent fees, so if the County cut the SACC program they wouldn't be getting very many savings to redirect to other programs, as compared to taking cuts from a fully-county funded program. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my concerns.
1140	Schools	We can't continue to cut funding and programs for our schools year after year. It is not fair to future students, and ultimately has negative impacts on the ability of Fairfax County to attract investments and businesses. While no one likes tax increases, people are willing to accept them if they feel they are necessary. I can't think of a more important reason for raising taxes than our school system.
1141	Schools	Please keep the band and string programs alive in our schools. These programs are a vital part of our children's education and for many kids it is the only opportunity they will have to be exposed to playing an instrument. Some of these students may even get scholarships based on their playing ability; scholarships which could mean the chance to go to college if they otherwise can't afford the cost. My children have both benefitted from the string, band and choral programs at Fairfax County schools and music (not just the kind that comes from an MP3 player) continues to be an important part of their lives. Please let me know what I can do to make sure that these programs continue!
1142	Schools	Please don't cut the music programs from schools. Let's think outside the box to come up with a solution...Can the schools or parents have the option to pay for part of it?? I would gladly pay a fee or participate in a fundraiser... just don't take the framework away. Children need to have the opportunity to explore music before they get into middle school. It's good for their self-esteem, self-expression and brain function. There has to be a way to work this out
1143	Schools	At this point, even with the economy in trouble, we need to focus on the schools. There has to be a way to increase revenue to save the core of the schools. The Board of Supervisors always plays a game with the schools and withholds funds forcing cuts at the schools, however they continue to increase other programs throughout the county. It is time to get creative and think outside the box. If you continue to decimate the school budgets, the overall quality of the school system will decline, then the property values will decline and you will not be able to recover even when the economy does. Quit doing studies that cost millions and just solve the problems. It seems that we study a problem for millions of dollars, come up with a cost and then by the time the project is underway, the cost has escalated. Get to the solution immediately.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1144	Schools	To whom it may concern, Please keep the band and string curriculum in elementary schools. Music is a necessity. 2 of my 3 children have participated in band / strings and I am hoping my youngest has the opportunity to do so as well. I rather give up immersion programs and modified school schedules. My children have participated in all. three. Thank you,
1145	Schools	To Whom It May Concern: I have read the FY 2011 budget projections related to Fairfax County Public Schools. While I understand the budget short-fall and corresponding need to cut spending, I am stunned to see the county is considering cutting full-day Kindergarten. Nothing is more fundamental to a child's learning than building the proper foundation of skills and knowledge in Kindergarten. By halving the time these kids spend in school, you are destroying that foundation. If the county wants to see continued improvement in testing scores, you need to commit to continuing with full-day Kindergarten. If you want Fairfax County to continue to be a desirable place to live and locate businesses, you need to commit to continuing with full-day Kindergarten. It is simply what is best for the kids AND the county. It is a true win-win. Find other programs to cut. This is NOT the place to look. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Sincerely, Fairfax County Resident and Mother of Two

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1146	County and Schools	<p>Please do not cut the school budget -- in fact, with an increase of around 5000 additional students expected for next year, just keeping the county transfer at the same level translates into a cut. Fairfax County schools have a wonderful reputation, and are a large reason for the high property values we have in the county. If the schools have to make draconian cuts that lead to a bare-bones education (ex. continuing to increase class sizes, cutting elementary school strings/band) or if we lose good teachers because they do not get COLAs, it will hurt the county as a whole -- penny wise but pound foolish. Class sizes were already increased last year. At our son's elementary school, the two 4th grade AAC classes have 30 and 32 students -- far too many already. Perhaps in acknowledgment of this, the administration split the two classes into three groups for math instruction, with the third group taught by an IA who appears to have no math background. Students have been told, "Stop asking me so many questions -- it's all in the book." Are we now expecting students to teach themselves? This untenable situation will become more common as class sizes increase. Also, do not unduly penalize the AAC students, as with the proposal to increase all class sizes by one student, but to increase AAC classes by that one student and also by an additional two students. Being gifted means that students learn differently -- it does not mean that they do not need to be taught. To get the money for a level or increased county transfer to the schools, please consider raising the real estate tax rate. It's fair to spread the increase across the county since everyone in the county, whether or not they have children in the schools, benefits from being in a county with a highly-regarded school system. Also, consider reinstating the vehicle tax (county sticker). Again, this spreads the cost across most residents. Tax increases are never enjoyable -- but if Fairfax County is going to continue offering the services and education the residents expect and rely on, it needs to be done. Please do what is right, not merely what might be politically popular.</p>
1147	County and Schools	<p>The reason I live in FX CO. is because the schools are so great. I particularly appreciate: 1) Immersion--particularly Japanese 2) Strings/ band/ choirs--music and art 3) Class sizes and instructional aides inc. tech. specialists 4) Wonderful school librarians/ media specialists I see ways to save money: 1) Supply and demand: Ask more for SACC and Rec-Pacc! 2) Ask a fee for holds and inter-library loans at library 3) Eliminate free busing to GT and magnet schools 4) Consolidate the specialists required for IEP conferences 5) Decrease the number of school counselors 6) Increase fees for public use of the school buildings and libraries Thank you for listening</p>
1148	County	<p>It would be a HUGE mistake to eliminate funding for band and strings at the elementary level. Look how many children are being served by these programs.</p>
1149	Schools	<p>I am very concerned about the possible reduction in full-day kindergarten programs for non Title 1 schools. Reducing these programs would have a very negative impact on our youngest students at a crucial time in their education and would be a hardship for working families. I am also concerned about the potential elimination of strings, band and other music programs in our elementary schools. The County should work as hard as it can to maintain the quality of our schools in this difficult economic period.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1150	County	Please do not cut into the library budget any further--the proposed 15% cut for 2011 would be devastating; there would be no FCPL at that point. Things to keep in mind: library usage has increased in this tough economic time; students require the use of the library to complete their assignments; many unemployed people use the computers because they can't afford their own and many jobs can only be applied for online; the library is one of the few free activities a family can enjoy; the County would have to build more homeless shelters for those who have nowhere else to go during library hours.
1151	Schools	Please reconsider the elimination of elementary school music programs. Music education has positive benefits on other subjects, and for many years to come in a student's life. We would be willing to pay for tests, such as AP and SAT to help offset costs.
1152	Schools	I think the school board should have a better understanding of the value of the magnet program and should avoid cutting disproportionate amounts of money from magnet schools, as has been suggested. It undercuts the most productive and valuable students, especially at schools like Thomas Jefferson.
1153	Schools	This is not twitter. You can allow more than 750 characters. How about measuring by word?
1154	Schools	It has been brought to my attention that the elementary school foreign language program may be eliminated as a cost saving measure in the 2011 budget. Since all the students in the foreign language classes will still need to have a teacher, classroom, books and other school supplies then eliminating this program does not appear to save any money in these categories. I feel the benefits of this program, both in learning another language and in allowing our children to be introduced to other cultures around the globe, are of a high enough value to continue this program. Maintaining a program of this nature, that is already up and running, is much easier than starting a new program. We should not simply discard the time and effort that went into getting this program into our schools.
1155	Don't Know	Please don't get rid of any band type programs!!!
1156	Schools	I understand that the school board is considering severe budget cuts for Thomas Jefferson High School. Increased Class Size, by 3 Students per Class, which would eliminate a minimum of 15 teachers (by contrast, only 1 student per class for all other High Schools) Additional class size requirements for TJ as an advanced academic school is detrimental. Cutting staff at TJ will result in having at least 1.5 more students per class than every other high school in FCPS. TJ already has the third highest among FCPS high schools. Other high schools receive staff supplements through participation in IB, support to disadvantaged populations, participation in Academies, and secondary schools utilizing staff from their middle schools. Seriously urge you to reconsider the cuts.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1157	County and Schools	Regarding the 2011 budget cuts--maybe these are crazy ideas but instead of getting rid of full day kindergarten, music, etc. consider the following: 1) Charge a fee for school transportation -- i.e. kids that need the bus pay an annual fee to use the bus. 2) Get rid of all elementary school bus routes...elementary aged children are either in the SACC program (if parents work) or they need an parent/caregiver to meet them at the bus stop anyway so why not make parents/caregivers pick those children up from school. 3) Charge each student a fee to attend school (doesn't California do this)...not a large fee, maybe \$100 per child (some families depending on income would be subsidized) = 173,000+student x \$100=\$17,300,000. 4) If the county currently pays for students to take AP tests, make the student pay for it, not the county (aka taxpayers).
1158	County and Schools	We have three children in FCPS and all of them participate in the school's music program. They like music so much that they all receive private lessons and participate in the many competitions. Music is integral to their overall development of appreciation for art and more importantly helps them become better students of Math and Science. Cutting music in elementary school MAY save a few dollars today, but the negative and cumulative impact over many, many years will far outweigh any short-term savings. This will severely impact not only the kids in elementary school, but middle school and high school music programs as well in the years to come. As we all know, the ability to learn music at a young age is so important. We do not support any proposal to cut music programs.
1159	County	The county should investigate the solid waste management system. Since half of the county already uses 3rd parties for solid waste, recycling, and yard debris pickup, the county should seriously investigate getting rid of these services for the portion of the county that do receive them. While "special tax districts" are supposed to pay for them, the administrative overhead associated with collecting these taxes, coupled with the fact that the county has to pay union labor rates, pension plans, maintenance and upkeep for the trucks, etc., there is no physical way the "special tax districts" are paying for all this. Cut the service entirely, and let these residents contract with a 3rd part the way the rest of us do.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1160	Schools	<p>Every student is entitled to a free public education. We all know this. However, the federal law does not say that this has to be the cadillac of education plans. In times of need we need to cut to the bare bones. 1) ELIMINATE all immersion/bi-lingual programs 2) 5 year olds cant learn from a book for 8 hours a day. they learn from play, which can be achieved in the form of play groups and other outside stimuli provided by parents. GO BACK TO 1/2 DAY KINDERGARDEN 3) Nowhere does it say that a free public education includes free access to after school sports and clubs. These activities have an overhead associated with them. The county already discriminates against some sports like Crew, and makes those athletes pay all expenses associated with their sport. instead of selected "county endorsed" sports that are free, make students pay some of the cost of running the high school football team. CHARGE A NOMINAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FEE. 4) REDRAW ALL DISTRICTS to minimize the total distance the bus fleet travels yearly. This cuts down on maintenance and operating costs associated with the bus fleet. Nowhere does it say one is guaranteed to go to a high school just because it has been that way for years. 5) Elementary students don't need top of the line PC's. They just need to learn how to type, surf the web, and use the Microsoft office suite. TEAM WITH COMPANIES TO RECYCLE THEIR LIGHTLY USED PC's in elementary school classrooms when the companies choose to upgrade. 6) DEVELOP A CENTRAL MATERIALS STORAGE SITE. My mother, a FCPS teacher of 30 years, watches her colleagues throw out perfectly good supplies at the end of the year and then they expect new ones the next year. If a teacher thinks she no longer needs 30 pairs of scissors, have her ship them to a central facility where another teacher could get them when she needs them. 7) Investigate using Kindle or another E-reader and digital textbooks. A \$220 Kindle coupled with \$20 e-reader versions of textbooks is a lot cheaper and takes less physical storage space than 7 subjects worth of textbooks (approx \$1000 dollars in comparison). 8) Re-order school start times to reduce the number of busses required. 9) Have teacher bind their handouts that they use every year into "custom textbooks" that would be loaned to the student the same way a textbook is. instead of paying for copier costs, like toner, electricity, and paper, yearly, you would pay for that only once.</p>
1161	Schools	<p>Please do not cut the FLES program. I think it is a wonderful part of the curriculum at Greenbriar West Elementary. My 2nd grader is very proud of how much she has learned. I personally know how hard it is to learn a new language if you start in college, I would like my daughter to have a chance to learn a language when she is young.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1162	Schools	As a parent of 2 Spanish Immersion students, at Laurel Ridge ES, I ask that you consider that since you asked parents to commit to 6 years of the program, that you will do the same for the children already enrolled. We live in a country that is linguistically far behind the rest of the world. Also, there are many parents, like myself, that have made decisions concerning placement based on them being in the program. Myself and many others feel that a second language is truly a life skill and more important for the future than a GT center based program in ES grades. The immersion program is not supported by busing. I wonder if the luxury of bus service was cut off from the AAP program if those parents would be as committed as Immersion parents are? I'm not suggesting closing the AAP program, but cut the bus funding. I drive by more 3 AAP center bus stops during my 1 mile trip to Laurel Ridge.
1163	Schools	I am completely against having more children in Gifted and talented or advanced learners classes then those in the general education classes--the class size should be the same or less in gt classes as these are also special learners.
1164	Schools	I understand the school system is looking at increasing class sizes n all classes by one child and adding an additional 2 students to each AAC classroom. I recognize the budgetary shortfall and reluctantly support adding one child to each class. However, the significant addition of 2 children to each AAC is simply ridiculous and seems to unfairly penalize children in advanced academic settings. Please do what you can to protect the educational environment for our children.
1165	Schools	The county should provide transportation for all students to their BASE school. It is likely not practical as far as traffic to require parents to provide transportation to GT Centers. I have been told that the county cannot charge for transportation to GT Centers by law. In light of the proposed cuts to educational programs, it is time to get the wheels in motion to change the law. The law was established; the law can be changed. While I believe that the school system should provide the service, a fee is reasonable given the current budget crisis. School programs for the average student must take priority over transportation to special centers for select students.
1166	County and Schools	During the October 19th FCPS School Board Work Session, the FCPS Elementary Band and String programs were named in a Strawman Poll as possible cuts to this year's budget. This cut would entirely eliminate the elementary band and strings programs, and will eventually destroy band and strings on all levels in Fairfax County. It is very important for the future of the arts in America for children to learn to play instruments while they are elementary school age or even younger. Please do not make this cut in the school budgets. Thank you.
1167	Schools	Please do not cut the FLES program. Thank you.
1168	Schools	Music is very important to education and should not be considered for cuts. Music serves so many of our students and is universally understood. Music helps students in so many ways -- it builds teamwork, shows the benefit of hard work, uses principles from math and science, and helps bridge the gap between people. Please look elsewhere for cuts!
1169	County	Specific suggestion: stop providing services for illegal immigrants.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1170	Schools	I am very concerned about what effect the proposed school system cuts will have on the young children in Fairfax County. I strongly disagree with increasing class sizes, cutting band programs in elementary schools, and cutting extra staff in high poverty schools. If we want to commit to decreasing youth violence, gangs, crime in Fairfax County it all starts with adequate funding and resources for the schools, keeping children active and engaged in learning. There must be another way to deal with the budget shortfall than cutting things that are so important for our children.
1171	County and Schools	A strong suggestion to relieve the budget deficit is to stop allowing illegals to attend public schools and providing free breakfast and lunch to them. They don't pay taxes so why should they benefit from a public service that they do not pay into? Take a hint from Prince William County.
1172	Schools	Suggestions: eliminate language immersion programs and eliminate busing children to programs outside their home schools (let parents be responsible for that transportation). Schools need to focus on core subjects: Math, Science, English, History, Music, PE, Foreign Language. If necessary, look to cut specialty courses -- Sociology, Psychology, Shop, HomeEc, and alternative high schools.
1173	Schools	Please do not eliminate our elementary music and arts programs. Depriving our kids of exposure to the arts at the elementary school level will kill arts programs at all levels up through high school. This unfairly impacts low income students as they will never have the gift of private music or arts lessons and impacts our entire society by devaluing the arts. We do not want a community that has no creative outlets. What right do the Supervisors have to say that certain subjects are more important than others, Why is history, for example, is more important than music? Why is football, which affects a significantly smaller group of students, more important than music? The goal of our public schools is to prepare our kids to be productive members of our community - how does promoting certain sports programs or subjects over the creative arts accomplish that goal? What studies have been done to support these budget cuts?
1174	Schools	While I appreciate that the county has significant budget restrictions in the coming years, I urge you not to cut back on the funding of children's music education at all grade levels. Music education makes a significant contribution to their learning as a whole. Children who begin studying music in grade school and continue through the middle and high school years not only develop the ability to play and appreciate music, they but due better overall in learning foreign languages, maths and the creative fields. Fairfax County now has a nationwide reputation for its support of music, please let's not now end what the Country has now been doing so well. Thank you. XX, 32-year resident, VP of Languages Incorporated & 10- season board member of the Washington Bach Consort, which itself gives an appreciate of music back to the community.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1175	Schools	We are worried about the proposed budget cuts at the elementary school level! Shifting back to half day kindergarten and cutting the foreign language and immersion programs are huge steps in the wrong direction! The county's school system is one of it's largest appeals, these programs enrich our schools and cutting them will effect so many. Are there smaller programs or perks that won't hurt so many at once that could be trimmed? Perhaps programs that won't take as long to build back up? Have we thought about charging more for activities that take place at the schools? What about charging a fee for students in the immersion programs until the budget is back on track? How much more is it for immersion programs when the kids are learning math and science either way and the other class rooms are full? Is the amount of money saved here enough to justify taking this program away?
1176	Schools	Raise taxes and implement car decal fee across the County. Continue to lobby State and Federal governments for promised funding for mandated programs.
1177	Schools	Have we explored the possibility to generate more revenue to avoid cut? For example: increase property tax ratio to generate more revenue for school. Instead of cutting string/band program, have we considered collecting a fee for students participate in string/band program?

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1178	County and Schools	<p>It appears that Hidden Pond Nature Center is being disproportionately hit by the County's budget shortfall. In May 2009, they were forced to give up a full-time staff position (which continues to adversely affect the remaining staff and volunteers who have taken on additional duties). And now (out of a total of three full-time senior staff positions) two positions are being cut at Hidden Pond. This leaves only one senior full-time staff person on-site. Nowhere else in the Division have these types of positions been cut. (See Budget Summary Report pg 53: "...elimination of 8 of 87 Resource management division positions..."). Seven (7) position cuts were approved. Why were two of these at Hidden Pond???? In addition, a merger is being proposed which would put Hidden Pond under Hidden Oaks' management. Not only are these sites eight miles apart, but Hidden Pond has a large array of live critters requiring care and feeding seven days a week, whereas Hidden Oaks has no live on-site animals. Hidden Pond is surrounded on all sides by neighborhoods whose residents frequent the park's trails, pond/stream, playground, tennis courts, nature center (all for free) and it's wonderful programs (reasonably priced). In early 2009, the County used funds to renovate Hidden Pond by adding a glassed-in entry way at the front of the nature center. This is a pedestrian friendly park and always has people on the grounds or in the nature center. It's a destination place for walking dogs, running, fishing in the pond, toddlers and Moms playing and picnicking, seniors enjoying their retirement in a safe outdoor location, school children learning through one of the park's programs, teens earning service hours, and much much more. Most importantly, Hidden Pond has the largest group of youth volunteers (female and male) I've seen at any County facility. These youth have found a place of belonging with other 'like-minded' individuals who are guided, supervised and mentored by three long-time Hidden Pond staff members (Jim Pomeroy, Clair Ailes and Mike McCaffrey). These young volunteers (many who bided their time on the "volunteer waiting list") love spending hours at Hidden Pond helping to run programs, caring for the animals, interacting with visitors, and making new friends. It's no accident that these teens give freely of their limited time and energies at Hidden Pond. If they didn't feel valued, challenged, connected, enriched, supported, and provided with opportunities to grown and try new experiences by the staff here, they'd just stop coming. After all they're not getting a paycheck. What they do get is much more valuable, especially in today's world. Early on, my son (current volunteer &amp; program attendee for 7 yrs) knew he wanted to do his Boy Scout Eagle project at Hidden Pond...to give back in a small way for all he's gotten (and continues to get) over the years. In fact, there are currently five active volunteers that are Eagle scouts/candidates at Hidden Pond. Three of their</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
		<p>Eagle projects are now benefiting the park and a fourth is in the planning stages. These are real costs savings to the park and the County, all facilitated through the youth volunteers. Next week, at Resource Management's 2009 Elly Doyle Park Service Awards one these volunteers (David Gawalt) will be honored with the "Youth Recognition Award". (He's logged over 2000 volunteer hours since 2003). Another volunteer being recognized is Sally Holtgrieve (with over 400 volunteer hours) who will receive a Volunteer Excellence Award. Also this year, Brian Umanzor (who came from the volunteer ranks) will receive the Trailblazer Diversity Award for his work with the Byrd Library program series &amp; Title 1 school outreach programs, which helps bridge a greater appreciation of our parks and the natural world for large segments of children in areas void of regular contact with the wild areas of Fairfax County. These are just three examples of the significant impact the current Hidden Pond staff has had on those around them. I have a few suggestions for ways monies (my tax dollars) can be better utilized: Re-distribute the \$1.3 million grant money from EPA for 32 FCPS buses (retro fit new 'green' exhaust). At a cost of \$40,625/bus this is a wasteful use of this amount of money, especially on these older buses. Adjust thermostats in all County buildings. Consistently schools are too hot (turn down heater settings). And conversely raise the air conditioner settings in all buildings...we shouldn't have to wear sweaters/long-sleeves inside County buildings in the summer months. (A Green savings!) Turn OFF ALL computers at all County facilities nightly. I noticed a HUGE savings on my electric bill just by doing this for our two home computers. (Another Green savings!) In the FCPS Transportation Study (<a href="http://www.fcps.edu/fts/taskforce07/questions/">http://www.fcps.edu/fts/taskforce07/questions/</a>), more than \$3.9M (SY '06-'07) is spent yearly on TAXIS!!!! (No current data is publicly available. See past data at end of email). Why not use FCPS &amp;/or Fairfax County owned/leased vehicles vs taxis/public buses to transport students? (Yes, I know what the current law/restrictions "state" about transporting school children, but it makes no sense and needs to be changed especially in these economically stressed times. Read on please). - Our tax dollars have already procured these county vehicles. Utilize them as much as possible, versus spending over \$3.9M/yr for taxi service or for transporting few students on large buses or purchasing small vans (We don't have the money to make new purchases!). - Perhaps FCPS staff, who've been laid-off or had their hours reduced, could be hired as drivers. - It would seem that transport via a FCPS or County vehicle would be safer for these vulnerable students, rather than public transportation, be it taxi or bus. County employees have been screened in order to be hired and are not some random unknown person who might pose a threat to these children (who are already experiencing crises in their lives). I thank you if you've read this entire email. We are living in extraordinarily difficult times. I am very concerned about the negative fallout these changes could have on countless numbers of people. Please feel free to contact me.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1179	Schools	Two of my three children attend Louise Archer Elementary, which is the local Vienna GT school. Will the Louise Archer GT program be cut back? Will this offer significant savings if so? I think our school is TOO big because of the program and would like to see it cut back. I am even a product of the GT system in Fairfax County (attended Haycock, Louise Archer and Longfellow) and believe the program should not start till at least 5th grade. I also find it odd that houses that are closer to Louise Archer and historically went there now go to school at Flint Hill ES. I believe the GT system is pushing neighborhood kids out of our neighborhood school. And, it's really irritating. Also, to add to our over crowding, parents put their kids in the daycare across the street from the school just so they can attend Louise Archer and not their "base" school - some as far away as Springfield. Ridiculous. I also have no problem with rolling back kindergarten to half day. I believe half day is all it should be and was glad our school never changed. I think our school budget is completely OVER BLOWN with way too much bureaucratic waste. Cut out jobs on the admin side and all the "extras" in the school and get back to teaching the kids the basics. My kid is being pushed to learn the continents in second grade and he can barely read/write. I don't get the logic there.
1180	Schools	Please, please do not cut elementary band and strings! This affects way more students than LOTS of other programs. Elementary GT centers should go way before band and strings! How about taking out the GT teacher that is based at the regular elementary schools? My son got WAY more out of strings and band than out of that program!! He is still enjoying his instrument in high school and it meant everything to us that he could start in 4th grade on the violin. He moved to the clarinet and now band is his favorite class. You will do enormous damage to the upper level bands if you take this out. My son used to walk home from elementary school with other band kids. They would stop and play their instruments under a huge tree. I know this sounds corny, but this is what really meant something to these kids!!! They were so proud. Music gives so much pleasure to so many people. Hard times are when we need music---not when we need it to go away. Thank you for whatever you can do to save this.
1181	County and Schools	Please stop paying exorbitant wages to people in the WAR (work after retirement) system. Those people are getting way more than any of the rest of us will ever get. WAR should not mean that these people can work forever at high, high wages plus get retirement benefits that the rest of us are paying for (and we are not getting any raises). WE CANNOT AFFORD THIS!! I work with one of these people and she is the least productive person on my team, yet is making a huge pile of money. This is very demoralizing for the rest of us. She actually flaunts this---she has no incentive to do a good job---she feels she has mega seniority and is at the big feeding trough. PLEASE STOP THIS!!!!
1182	Schools	Don't cut funding for music.
1183	Schools	Music programs are extremely important in enriching young minds. I do NOT think it is in the best interest of Fairfax County to cut elementary band and orchestra programs. By doing so, FCPS would be denying young students the opportunity to try new things. Many students who start music programs in elementary school continue to high school, and even major in music.



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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1184	Schools	Re: proposed cut(s) to music in FCPS I am a product of FCPS (G 1-12 before Kindergarten), my children attended FCPS G K-12, and we currently have a grandchild on the way who will attend FCPS. Music programs in the public school are not an option but a "core" subject. I'm sure the Board is aware of the benefits of music to the brain as studied time & time again, resulting in higher scholastic scores. Reducing or omitting music will reflect lower academic scores for FCPS; not a desired outcome to say the least! I maintain that just as importantly, perhaps more importantly, is the benefit of music to the "whole" child we encourage and build in FCPS. There are not other options to acquire music for many students accept thru FCPS. Music programs in the school are where many of our children are blossoming, gaining self esteem, and identifying with a "good" group of kids vs (gangs). I am so thankful for the music programs in my family's lives and the continued benefits each has received. I only want this for each child and family in Fairfax County and to further insure better communities for all FC residents.
1185	County and Schools	Do not cut elementary music. Very shortsighted as the gift to math and sense of belonging is invaluable. Please come to any high school music concert and then justify the cuts. You will not be able to once you hear and see the music and musicians. Do not sacrifice quality or the children for a pittance on the balance sheet.
1186	Schools	Please raise taxes, get the State to give you more power for other revenue avenues - consumer taxes such as a meal tax. The schools are essential to Fairfax County as an attraction to keep companies and individuals. If the Schools do not make Fairfax County a special place then we will lose future revenue for years to come. Of particular importance is all programming, especially foreign languages - immersion. This early training in language is what makes Fairfax County a special place. This unique, hugely successful program has a twenty year investment. It is an educational enrichment program that is open to all to apply.
1187	Schools	Please keep the Immersion programs in the elementary schools. With the continued globalization of the economy and the increased need for interactions among all ethnic groups, it is imperative that we keep the language programs. Other countries have placed a greater emphasis on language education (European countries are a prime example where the majority speak multiple languages), and if we don't continue to improve language education, we risk falling even further behind.
1188	Schools	Music education needs to begin when the student is young. Our two daughters and three grandchildren have all gained valuable skill and enjoyment of their instrumental music by starting with an elementary band class. Our daughters each continued their music in their universities. Our grandchildren continue to enjoy band in middle and high school.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1189	County and Schools	As I have heard Fairfax County is facing a huge budget crisis next year which will effect a great many programs in the schools, including elementary band and strings. PLEASE REMOVE from the current proposal ANY AND ALL cuts for all elementary band and strings programs for the coming year. It would be a terrible thing to deny a child the opportunity to express themselves through strings and band - there must be other areas where cuts will have less of a negative impact on our children. Those children that do not participate in sports look to strings and band as their way of finding their place in school - PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THESE PROGRAMS AWAY.
1190	Schools	Fairfax schools are a premier reason people live and work here. If it's needed, simply raise the property tax percentage to make up for the lost value in house prices. If someone was paying 1% on a \$500,000, then have them pay 1.25% on a \$400,000 house - problem solved. It is not a tax increase - it would be \$5000 in taxes either way. DO NOT CUT the language immersion programs.
1191	Schools	I participated in some of the budget discussions this past year, and was shocked by some of the decisions the school board is making. What surprised me the most was the total lack of creativity in coming up with a budget. Based on statistics, from the last ten years, Fairfax County has ranked in the top 20 in the US for median household income and average per capita income. So, we are a county of privilege. We are also a county of philanthropy. I guarantee there are ways that funding could be generated beyond just allocated dollars. In fact, while my daughter does not have full day kindergarten, I absolutely would have been willing to pay the differential to send her to full day, and for that matter I would have paid for multiple other families who haven't been as fortunate as my family has been (and we don't even fall anywhere near the high end of the salary scale.) I worry that you are diluting the integrity of the education by not thinking "outside the box" and instead relying on old stale formulas and metrics. I am also appalled that you have frozen teacher salaries for the past several years. You are devaluing and demoralizing your greatest asset. Take away some of the elective programs to fund the critical building blocks of education. I mean, I would rather have happy teachers and smaller class sizes than elementary schools that provide language immersion. I know you probably get tons of feedback, but I am happy to assist in the process if you need additional volunteers.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1192	Schools	<p>The loss of Fairfax County Public School's Foreign Language Partial Immersion Program would be a grave disservice to our very diverse community after all the enthusiasm and support for it since its inception in 1989, I understand the predicament the school board is under trying to balance the budget. Some suggestions to save money follow: charge for or eliminate school bus transportation to all elective programs (Advanced Academic programs, including TJHSST), Transportation fees could include a scholarship excess that could be available upon proof of financial need. I understand that the immersion program costs the county an additional \$540/student. If this is correct, a fee of \$650/student can be charged per student. The additional \$110 can go into a county wide fund for scholarships which would be available to students in need who would like to enroll in the program and are selected through the lottery process. Raise property taxes enough to bring in the revenue for the schools. A great number of the families in Fairfax moved here for the schools and would be willing to pay higher taxes to keep their quality of education at the status quo. Increase taxes on luxury items (bring back the car tax), candy, soda, etc. Eliminate only the last year or two of the Immersion program since that is where the most attrition is and therefore the greatest cost. I hope these ideas help. We have a top rate school system here and are committed to keeping it that way.</p>
1193	Schools	<p>I am very concerned about the proposed budget as it relates to full day Kindergarten. Moving such a giant step backward to half day Kindergarten in so many schools is really not thinking ahead for student achievement. I know cuts have to be made, but half day Kindergarten is pretty much glorified preschool. I have a masters degree in Early Childhood Education and taught full day Kindergarten for seven years before my children were born. Even in full day, it was difficult to cover everything. Moving to half day WILL NOT provide our children with the skills they need to be successful in first grade and beyond!! My daughter attends Bush Hill ES and my son will be there next year. Please consider a better way to save money!!</p>
1194	Schools	<p>Cutting full day Kindergarten would put our students at a terrible disadvantage.</p>
1195	Schools	<p>My understanding is that while the Fairfax Board of Education has to come up with line item amounts for specific programs, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors comes up with the bottom line for the overall FCPS budget. In my value scheme, education takes priority over roads and other capital improvements. Please protect as much of the FCPS budget as possible! Investment in human capital is more important than investment in physical capital at this time.</p>
1196	Schools	<p>Keep full day kindergarten! The educational impact of full day kindergarten speaks for itself - let's not go backwards and have students suffer with these budget cuts.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1197	County and Schools	<p>I understand that the FCPS is facing a huge deficit for the 2010/2011 yr. Please do not eliminate the Band and Strings program for the elementary students. I believe that learning an instrument improves a student's ability to learn as well as exposing them to something they may not normally be able to do on their own. My son has just started violin in the fourth grade and really enjoys it and is looking forward to learn the instrument.</p> <p>Please do not eliminate full day kindergarten. Children are able to learn so much more in full day kindergarten than 1/2 day programs. This is a crucial time for them to learn routines, following directions and social skills. Some kindergarteners come in with no preschool experience and this is their first exposure to a school setting. Both my kids had full day kindergarten at Kings Park and I think they are much better students for it. My sister's daughter had 1/2 day program and she said her child didn't benefit as much as she could have if it were a full day program. Kindergarten sets the foundation for the grades beyond.</p>
1198	Schools	<p>Dear Fairfax County Board, We have two children in the Fairfax County Public School System. Both of them are enrolled in the Japanese Immersion Program at Great Falls Elementary School. They both love the program and the exceptional teachers that we have teaching JIP at our school. It is both amazing and interesting to see how young minds can absorb languages so quickly. To us this is not something that should ever be considered as an option of losing. We feel that all students in our county schools should be given the chance to learn a language. It is important for their brain development, as well as teaching them that other cultures are worth learning about. To ever consider taking away any foreign language opportunities is a serious travesty. Our children deserve a great education. In doing so we must offer more than just reading and math. In our JIP program our children are constantly learning, challenged and encouraged. All while being taught in Japanese. What an amazing gift t</p>
1199	County	<p>Please restore hours to the public library . The library is especially needed during economic hard times. For many it is their only access for email and internet services. With reduced hours there is less access to the internet - which limits folks who are job hunting or doing other library business basic to their daily living.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1200	Schools	<p>Studies suggest that children learn better with music. Removing the music programs is detrimental to our children. Our teachers are already over worked with class sizes growing each day, reducing helper in the schools reduces the time our children spend with teachers. Lesson plans are then taught to the lowest common denominator or the child who is least able. This is unfair and does not provide the promise of a free, fair and appropriate education. Furthermore, Principals are not in the buildings very much as it is with meetings, training etc. If you remove vice principals the schools will be without leadership. Many of the schools are not being lead by strong leaders as it is. Cutting the budget in these ways are unacceptable. Budget cuts should be made to the football, lacrosse, baseball, and other extracurricular activities and athletic departments as a whole. School lunches should be improved across the grade levels. Providing our children with better lunch options would bring money into the schools. I am willing to pay higher lunch costs if the food quality is worth it. Recently my daughter came home saying her fruit today was blueberry pie. come on are we back in the Reagan era, when ketchup was a food group? We also need to do away with books and papers. Children should be able to use the free education they can get through technology. Books learning should be done only on computers. I am amazed how much paper i receive in a day from my children. I also suggest removing some technology in schools where the children are not actively using computer but rather playing games and drawing pictures. Also in schools where parents can not afford computers you are less likely to be using them at home, and therefore removing computers and placing them in schools that need them. I also suggest to reduce salaries from the upper management starting at the superintendent and down. I also suggest the county get more involved in the amount of people living in one home. This is a drain on the schools as well as our homes. More families in a house more children in our schools. We also need year round schools in order to bring our children up to world standards. The year round schools bring in money during their off time by providing enrichment to children who attend. The budget cuts you are trying to make only hurt our children not help.</p>
1201	County and Schools	<p>My parents moved to Fairfax County from the NYC suburbs in 1974 because they'd done research and decided that this county had pretty much the best school system in the nation. That's why they moved to Reston then too - it was forward-thinking and creative. If wonderful programs such as languages, music, band, strings, and art are cut from the schools now, it does not make Fairfax County look like education is a priority. Those programs are the pride of our school system and the special extras that draw people here rather than Montgomery or another county.</p>
1202	Schools	<p>It would be a serious disservice to our county to remove band and strings from the school system. We would not be providing the well-rounded education that previous administrations, teachers, parents and students have striven to achieve in the past. I believe that this administration must be creative enough to continue achieving the same standards that we have set as a community for our schools.</p>

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1203	County and Schools	The majority of FCPS elementary students - almost 70 percent -- participate in instrumental music programs There are numerous studies confirming the correlation between performing arts (instrumental music in particular) and academic performance, college admissions and long-term life skills. By eliminating music in elementary schools today, it will ultimately effect music programs at the high school level. Please keep our music programs in tact in Fairfax County Schools.
1204	County and Schools	I am submitting my opinion on the proposal to possibly cut band and strings programs in Fairfax County schools in the SY 10/11. I am appalled to hear this being proposed. Our children enjoy the many benefits of playing music and participating in a peer group that is very valuable for them. Music provides many benefits to children's ability to learn, and gives them the opportunity to express themselves in a creative way. Even special-needs students enjoy playing music. Eliminating the opportunity for all children to learn to play an instrument and being able to experience the opportunity to discover a new talent is absolutely not acceptable. By cutting band/strings programs in Elementary Schools, we also cut the great programs in middle and high school which "live" from the young talents that are being already being discovered and trained in elementary schools. As a tax-paying citizen of Fairfax County, I am against the elimination of band/strings programs. All children, aside from race, culture and economic backgrounds should be given the chance to learn to play music. The musical language crosses cultural bridges and language barriers. Only focusing on high achievement scores on standardized tests by all means, is not fair to students and teachers who have found music to be their calling. Band and strings members have an important peer group, which prevents involvement in gang-related activities during the higher grades. I strongly urge you to reconsider your proposal.
1205	Schools	I strongly believe that music education is of significant value to our students. I have two children currently involved in Fairfax County music programs, and one who is so anxious to begin that she is already taken up an instrument. My eldest has been so inspired by the phenomenal music educators she has encountered that she plans for a career in music education. Cutting these programs seems incredibly short sighted, and very much a knee jerk reaction. I am sure we can do better - let's go back to the drawing board and find a better solution.
1206	Schools	I understand that the county is considering cutting music programs. This would be HIGHLY detrimental on many levels. Music stimulates learning -- look at the infant through elementary age toys -- they are mostly musical on some level. Also, for students who are not high academic achievers this gives them a positive outlet for success. Studies have shown that music is even helpful to babies in the womb -- it calms them and they develop various sensory responses as a result. Do NOT cut music in any way from the FCPS school programs. Thank you.
1207	County and Schools	I would prefer that you raise our taxes rather than cut funding for education. I am also concerned that education cuts may disproportionately harm TJHSST -- particularly cuts that would reduce teaching staff and raise TJ class size even further above the Fairfax County norm. These are the future engineers scientists who can have a profound effect on our world. We must not short change them. If anything, we should devote more resources to their education, rather than less.

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1208	Schools	I can not afford another pay cut (ie. furlough days). As a single woman in Northern VA, I already have three other jobs besides my full-time teaching position. Although each of my other jobs requires only 4-5 hours a week, that's an extra 15 hours/week that I have to work just to keep up with my mortgage and expenses since I did not receive a pay raise last year.
1209	County and Schools	It has come to my attention that the County is considering cutting all elementary school-level band and string programs. I would strongly object to such a decision. Music programs contribute significantly to the development of a well-rounded, educated individual and provide meaningful opportunity to express creativity and teamwork. Playing music has also been shown in many studies to aid in overall cognitive development that, in turn, is applicable to academic subjects. While this year's budget shortfalls are well-known, a decision to cut band and string programs would be particularly short-sighted and counterproductive to the academic and social development of our county's children. I strongly urge you to re-think this proposal.
1210	Schools	Fine with me to cut elementary school bands if something must be cut. I'm submitting this because of the reply-to-all msgs that band supporters are deluging me with. They don't suggest what is less worthy than band to be cut instead. teacher, LBSS
1211	County	Have any of the suggestions made at the meetings been posted online yet? Are you grouping all similar ideas together to shorten the list and see what type of suggestion is the most frequent?
1212	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1213	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1214	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1215	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1216	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1217	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1218	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1219	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1220	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1221	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1222	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1223	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1224	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1225	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1226	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1227	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1228	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1229	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1230	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1231	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1232	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1233	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1234	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1235	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings

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#	County/Schools?	Comment
1236	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1237	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1238	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1239	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1240	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1241	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1242	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1243	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1244	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1245	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1246	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1247	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1248	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1249	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1250	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1251	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings, Do not cut back to 1/2 day kindergarten, do not increase class size. Increase tax's to fund the schools
1252	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1253	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1254	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1255	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1256	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1257	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1258	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1259	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1260	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1261	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1262	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1263	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings/ protect libraries. Consider GT transportation for a cut.
1264	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1265	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings/FLES
1266	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings/keep school counselors
1267	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1268	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1269	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1270	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings. Cut GT School busing
1271	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1272	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1273	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1274	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1275	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1276	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1277	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings. Cut GT School busing



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<b>#</b>	<b>County/Schools?</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1278	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1279	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings. Cut GT School busing
1280	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1281	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1282	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1283	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1284	Schools	Protect all Special programs in the schools
1285	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings/FLES. Increase class size to save programs.
1286	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1287	Schools	Protect Full day kindergarten
1288	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings
1289	Schools	Protect Schools bands and strings. Protect special needs students. Cut GT School busing